United Nations A/C.3/64/SR.3

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
17 November 2009
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 3rd meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 6 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Penke ..... (Latvia)

Contents

Agenda item 61: Social development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)

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09-54331 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.07 a.m.

Agenda item 61: Social development (*continued*) (A/64/65 and A/64/180)

(a) Implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/64/157, A/64/158 and A/64/158/Corr.1)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/64/61-E/2009/3, A/64/132, A/64/132/Corr.1 and A/64/134)

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/64/127)

1. **Mr. Duarte** (Portugal), speaking on behalf of Portuguese youth, said that Portugal had done much to help young people adapt to changes in the social, economic and cultural environment, encouraging young workers and students to go abroad to pursue their recreational activities, their studies or their career, supporting young entrepreneurs, and promoting information and communication technologies to create a knowledge society without exclusion. Its youth policies and programmes were based on the principles of action set forth in the Lisbon strategy, and there were two public agencies responsible for monitoring them. However, with the current crisis Portuguese youth were finding their entry into adult life complicated by the problem of finding skilled employment, decent working conditions and affordable housing. On the education front, the Government needed not only to combat failure and dropout rates but also to reform the higher education system in order to promote equality of opportunities. Young Portuguese were already able to participate in local decision-making through local youth councils, but they were insisting on the creation of regional councils where they could engage in dialogue with regional, national and international decision makers.

2. The young people of Portugal believed that policies and programmes targeted at them must be pursued with the involvement of youth organizations, local communities, schools, sporting clubs, authorities at all levels, and all other stakeholders. They were asking the United Nations and its Member States to commit themselves, on behalf of youth, by implementing a worldwide cross-sectoral policy for improving the situation of youth and reinforcing their role in society.

3. **Mrs. Büning** (Germany), speaking on behalf of German youth, said the four subjects of greatest concern to them were climate change, education, effective participation, and the rights of youth around the world. Young people were acutely aware of the fallout from climate change, which in the end was man-made, and they were standing shoulder to shoulder with young people around the world in the campaign to combat climate change. However, their commitment would be meaningless unless Governments assumed their responsibilities by reaching a climate agreement at the Copenhagen Summit, one that would involve young people in combating climate change and would require ecological education in school and extracurricular activities.

4. Young Germans recognized that, like the learning imparted in school, extracurricular education (which was generally provided by independent or charitable associations) helped young people to forge an identity and to become responsible members of society. They were therefore calling on Governments and other stakeholders to support volunteer associations and in this way revive young people's commitment to volunteer work.

5. **Mr. Mohrs** (Germany), also speaking on behalf of German youth, said that young people were in the best position to know what was needed to improve their situation, and that they should be given a greater role in decision-making at the local, national and international levels and should be included in delegations representing their countries to international bodies. Considering the prime importance of participating in elections, the principal tool of democracy, German youth were demanding that the voting age be reduced to 15 years, that the right to vote and the right to stand for election be tied to residency and not to nationality, and that all young people be duly informed on this point by the independent media.

6. Fully aware of the problems involved in the transition from childhood to adulthood, German youth were calling for adoption of a worldwide convention on the rights of youth that would give them the chance to achieve their full potential, protect their rights and guarantee their autonomy, their health, their rights to decent employment and education, and their right to housing. They were demanding an ambitious programme to achieve all the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), and insisting that all stakeholders

assume their responsibilities in accordance with the principles of good governance and viability.

7. **Mrs. Wallberg** (Sweden), speaking on behalf of Swedish youth, said that sustainable development for all, which presupposed the possibility of living in good health and participating in political decisions, must be guided by the spirit of solidarity and the desire to work for the common good. Swedish youth believed that the right to live one's sexuality was essential to health and well-being and went hand-in-hand with equality of the sexes, recognizing the need to be aware of the potential risks. Recognizing that it was not possible to participate fully in the life of society without being in good health and that participating in decision-making meant taking one's health in hand, Swedish youth were asking Governments to promote young people's participation by supporting the organizations representing them. Young people had solutions to propose, they were imbued with a spirit of enterprise and innovation, and they refused to live in a world that they had not helped build, consequently they were insisting on being associated in decision-making processes at all levels in order to shape their own future while helping to achieve human rights and sustainable development.

8. **Mr. Varney** (Australia), speaking on behalf of Australian youth, said that young people from across Australia had seen their lives completely disrupted by unprecedented disasters due to climate change, and they were living in fear that brush fires, heat waves, and flooding caused by high sea levels would become common events. Not content to confine their energies to local initiatives, Australian youth had launched a vast campaign of youth action for the climate, demanding that world leaders conclude an ambitious, fair and binding agreement that would call, in particular, for a reduction of at least 40 per cent in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020.

9. Like young people in many other countries, young Australians wanted to make a useful contribution to society. To do so they had to overcome many obstacles, joining in community initiatives to establish equality among all young people and to facilitate intercultural relations so that they could speak with a single voice. They had been helped in this respect by the Government, which had organized a forum for all young people, including those who were excluded and homeless, and this had given them the hope of playing an influential role in their community. They were calling on world leaders to take energetic action to combat climate change and to bequeath to future generations a world worthy of them.

10. **Mr. Shwaikh** (Iraq) said the Iraqi Government was determined to ensure equality of opportunities, to meet the needs of all, to overcome social inequalities, and to restore balance to the lives of Iraqi citizens, who were still suffering the fallout from wars and economic sanctions. Despite the country's resources, economic development was difficult because all of its infrastructure had been destroyed. The Iraqi Government was attempting however to improve living standards by reviving the economy, reducing poverty and creating jobs, while raising civil servants' salaries and improving social protection for non-working people (widows, orphans, the elderly and people with specific needs). It had created a support fund for the poor and a development assistance fund for isolated rural areas, and it had implemented programmes to improve families' living standards and help them adapt to social change. Measures had been taken to strengthen security and improve access to justice and legal aid. The Government was working to improve basic health, vaccination and mental health services, to expand health facilities by involving the private sector, to guarantee the distribution of medications, to improve research and to encourage Iraqi doctors who had taken refuge abroad to return home. To improve the quality of primary and secondary education, training was being provided for teachers and school facilities were being upgraded. Students and teachers were being introduced to leading-edge technologies and international research works. The scholarship budget for students to study abroad had been increased. Iraq hoped to make further progress on the social development front, something that was essential to restoring peace and security in the region, but it could only do this with the support of the international community.

11. **Mrs. Sodov** (Mongolia) noted that the current financial, food and oil crises, together with climate change, were cancelling out the progress made towards the MDGs because of their direct and lasting repercussions on people's lives and livelihoods. In this respect, cooperatives could contribute to economic and social development by fostering the spirit of enterprise, the creation of productive jobs, increased incomes, reduced poverty and greater social integration, social protection and community development. They allowed everyone to control his livelihood and to participate in economic and social development. When Mongolia had moved from a planned economy to a market economy,

its first cooperatives had become autonomous associations co-managed and democratically controlled by their members. The Mongolian Government had taken steps to create a sound legislative and regulatory framework and to establish conditions conducive to the emergence of new cooperatives. The country had a law on cooperatives and a law granting exemptions from customs duties and taxes for equipment and spare parts destined for small and medium-sized enterprises, including cooperatives. In its national programme for development of cooperatives over the period 2009-2017, the Government planned to create a favourable legal framework, provide economic and financial support and encourage investments, strengthen stakeholder participation, create a sales network and promote training. Thanks to such measures, the number of cooperatives had increased and some 50,000 jobs had been created in various sectors. The Mongolian delegation hoped to rally the necessary support for proclamation of the International Year of Cooperatives.

12. **Mr. Al-Shami** (Yemen) said that the financial, economic, energy and ecological crises of today posed a threat to economic and social development and that international cooperation must be stepped up to deal with them, especially in developing countries and the least developed countries. Yemen was itself faced with the combined effects of demographic growth, falling oil revenues and resource scarcity, while it was one of the smallest recipients of international assistance. He was therefore calling on international partners to increase their aid. The Yemeni Government had taken several measures in favour of youth, such as creation of the Ministry of Youth and establishment of a capacities development programme for the period 2006-2015. Internationally, Yemen was committed to implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth. When it came to persons with disabilities, Yemen had participated in drafting the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and was one of the first States to ratify it, as well as its optional protocol. Domestic application of the Convention and its optional protocol had produced laws on the rights of persons with disabilities, their access to training and their participation in the development process, and one law (No. 61 of 1991) had created a special fund for persons with disabilities. In addition, Yemen had hosted a number of meetings on this issue. The Government had also taken legislative measures in favour of older persons, and had built retirement homes. It was now working on formulation of a national strategy. Finally, Yemen was a party to efforts to apply the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

13. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran), referring to the report of the Secretary-General on the 2009 world social situation (A/64/158), said the current world crises were jeopardizing the progress made to date, especially in developing countries. Under these circumstances, the Iranian Government was determined to respect the commitments given at Copenhagen during the World Summit for Social Development as well as the other internationally agreed targets, as evidenced by the domestic efforts Iran had made in the areas of health, employment and poverty reduction.

14. Citing the Secretary-General's report on follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family (A/64/134) and article 16 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, he stressed the importance of the family for social integration. The Iranian delegation joined with the Secretary-General in inviting Governments to begin preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in 2014, and to take that occasion to promote the development of family policies. With respect to older persons, the Iranian Social Security Agency and the Ministry of Social Protection were responsible, along with other governmental and non-governmental bodies, for giving effect to the three priority guidelines contained in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, with a view to respecting the rights of older persons, ensuring their economic security, and guaranteeing their access to health services. In addition, the Iranian Centre for Research on Ageing was working for a better understanding of the social and psychological needs of older persons.

15. **Mr. Bhattarai** (Nepal) stressed the importance of achieving in full the priority objectives of social development, and said that to combat poverty, inequalities and exclusion the employment market would have to be expanded and developed countries would need to take a more conciliatory stance regarding migrant workers from developing countries. The international community must also increase its financial and technical support to the least developed countries, in particular those in post-conflict situations, and it should work in a comprehensive and concerted way to resolve the current crises.

16. The Government of Nepal had taken various measures to promote social development, particularly in the context of its interim development plan, by

adopting a rights-based approach as called for in Nepal's interim constitution. On this point, he recalled that national efforts had to be supported by regional and international cooperation in order to promote the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. His Government was currently drawing up a national youth policy and was committed to giving young people a role in economic and social initiatives. It had set for itself as well the objective of eliminating illiteracy and making the education system more equitable and accessible to all. Finally, Nepal had adopted a policy and a plan of action for persons with disabilities, who now enjoyed new prospects for employment in the civil service.

17. **Mr. Gonzalez** (Mexico), representing Mexican youth, welcomed the Secretary-General's report on implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (A/64/61-E/2009/3), and said Mexico had played an active part in the expert group meeting on youth issues organized by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs in May 2008, which dealt with the objectives and targets in the annex to the Secretary-General's report. Mexico had also participated in the youth representatives programme for the last five years.

18. He said youth should be considered as active agents of social change and that if lasting progress were to be made towards development, and in particular toward achieving the MDGs, greater account would have to be taken of young people, without overlooking other priority sectors of society. Beyond the domestic initiatives it had taken, the Mexican Government had decided to invite all Member States, representatives of civil society and young people from around the world to take part in an international conference on youth, to be held in Mexico City from 24 to 27 August 2010. The objectives of that conference would be to set priorities and policies for youth and development, to promote creation of a special follow-up mechanism for youth questions within the United Nations, to foster dialogue between civil society organizations and Governments, and to share experiences, analyses, strategies and good practices.

19. **Mrs. Sow** (Senegal), citing the threats and obstacles facing the most vulnerable population segments in developing countries, such as extreme poverty, soaring oil and food prices, and the effects of climate change, said the question of development was first and foremost a political one, and was therefore the responsibility of political leaders. Developing countries must commit themselves to better governance and greater investment in health and education, while developed countries should lend their support by reducing the debt burden and helping institute a fairer international trading system. For its part, the Senegalese Government was determined to fulfil its commitments, with respect to women and youth in particular. As it had done in previous sessions, Senegal would be presenting a draft resolution on youth, together with the Republic of Moldova and Portugal, which it hoped would garner wide support.

20. On the domestic front, the Senegalese Government had adopted a development strategy comprising four essential levers: wealth creation, reinforcing capacities and basic social services, improving living conditions for vulnerable groups, and preparing a mechanism for decentralized and participatory monitoring. To combat HIV/AIDS, the prevalence of which was relatively stable but which affected twice as many women as men, Senegal had introduced a free screening and monitoring programme to ensure equitable access to care.

21. **Mr. Solcan** (Romania), representing Romanian youth, invited all Governments to follow the example of his country, which for four years now had been including youth representatives in its national delegation to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its technical commissions, whenever youth questions were being addressed. It was essential for young people to participate in the decision-making process so that they could become full members of world society.

22. Recalling that education made it possible to reduce poverty, gender inequality, health problems and unemployment, he said the international community had made encouraging progress towards basic education for all, and that the launch of the "Education for All: Class of 2015" initiative in 2008 was an important milestone in the campaign against illiteracy. Yet because of the economic crisis, more and more young people were being denied an elementary education, and efforts to secure access to basic education at an affordable cost must be redoubled. Non-formal education should also be further explored as a useful approach.

23. **Mrs. Sârbu** (Romania), also speaking on behalf of Romanian youth, said that young people were among the groups most severely affected by the grave financial and economic crisis currently gripping the world. In fact, young people accounted for 40 per cent of the 59 million newly unemployed counted by ILO

since 2007, and around 45 per cent of people who had fallen into poverty. While the trend was less alarming in Romania, the authorities were committed to several legislative bills to give young people real opportunities to find a decent and productive job and thereby to break the vicious circle of unemployment, poverty, and limited access to education and medical care.

24. Inspired by the ILO Decent Work Programme and its Declaration on Social Justice for a Fair Globalization, the Global Jobs Pact demonstrated the determination of ILO and its members to come to grips with the crisis. Yet words had to be translated into actions. First, school programmes must be revised and broadened around the world. International standards should be set, wherever possible, so that young people could take advantage of job opportunities at home and abroad. Second, young people must be able to contribute to the drafting of labour legislation, using for example information and communication technologies, so that their interests would be given the same consideration as those of employers. Third, young entrepreneurs should receive basic financial support, so that society as a whole could reap the benefits of their creativity and their capacities for innovation.

25. **Mrs. Al-Zibdeh** (Jordan) reported that Jordan had adopted several programmes of social protection and welfare. One of the Government's priority themes was to reinforce the role of the family. In 2014, Jordan would be marking the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family to show its support for the work of the United Nations on this issue. It had established a National Council for the Family, which was to sponsor campaigns to improve cohesion among family members and initiatives such as the National Strategic Plan for the Protection of the Family and the Prevention of Violence (2005-2009). The Council was also pursuing policies to meet the essential needs of the family and to enhance its role in society, relying for this purpose on partnership between the formal sector and the private sector as well as cooperation with civil society organizations.

26. Jordan considered that the MDGs did not take proper account of persons with disabilities. To protect their rights, Jordan introduced a national strategy 2007-2009 and established the Supreme Council for Persons with Disabilities, which would be holding its first session in November 2009. With respect to youth, this was a very important population group whose rights must be protected. Young people were penalized by many problems — unemployment, poverty, illness, drug addiction, delinquency, accidents, conflicts — to which must be added the specific challenges facing girls, and in particular the need to include them more effectively in decision-making. The 2007-2009 strategy of the Supreme Council for Youth sought to strengthen young people's participation and promote respect for their civil and political rights, while giving them responsibilities. In the case of older persons, a strategy had been instituted to integrate this population group into all aspects of economic, social and human life. All these social development policy measures were being implemented with full respect for the principles of non-exclusion and non-discrimination.

27. **Mr. Naef** (Switzerland), speaking on behalf of Swiss youth, noted that young people, who represented some 70 per cent of the world population, carried within them future solutions to the world's problems. At a time of crisis, vulnerable groups — including youth — were threatened with social exclusion, the many and harmful effects of which were described in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/157). The situation called for instruments of social inclusion to ease the impact of the crisis. For Switzerland, these instruments were, on one hand, reinforced training and job creation and, on the other hand, the establishment of social security systems. Those systems played an essential role in times of crisis, even if they presented additional risks in terms of financing. Deploring the fact that the international community had not examined or even recognized the enormous potential of a social security system for developing countries and the least developed countries, he said the international community should unite its efforts to establish, within a reasonable time, a minimum world social security that would guarantee universal coverage suited to the needs of each country. The commitment to coordination given by ILO and the United Nations Chief Executives Board should be welcomed. There should be no discrimination when it came to the social inclusion of young people. In his report (A/64/157), the Secretary-General had cited young people of immigrant stock as a particularly vulnerable group. Switzerland therefore proposed that the 2011 report of the Secretary-General on this question should be devoted to the issue of migration.

28. **Mr. Rahman** (Bangladesh) considered that older persons should play a more active role in society and should have a less degrading image. The ageing of the population, while it testified to achievements in the

area of social development, particularly longer life expectancy, was also becoming a major concern. There were now 737 million older persons in the world: in Bangladesh they would number 18 million by 2025, compared to 6 million in 1991. The great majority of this steadily increasing population were living below the poverty line, and this threatened to become a social problem, aggravated by the current economic, financial and climatic crisis. For this reason Bangladesh was committed to implementing the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, a task that fell primarily to national Governments but that also required international cooperation. Recognizing the link between ageing and poverty, Bangladesh was focusing its efforts under the Madrid plan of action on eliminating poverty: more than half of the national budget was earmarked for poverty reduction programmes, with a view to reducing the rate from 45 per cent to 15 per cent by 2021. The Government had recently raised the rates for retirement pensions and their coverage: 2.2 million people were now drawing pensions. It had also forged a partnership with NGOs and civil society organizations and was working to promulgate a law guaranteeing the rights of older persons. The international community had the duty of striving to remedy the gaps in this area, in particular by mobilizing adequate resources for full and complete implementation of national programmes for the elderly. It was essential, then, for developed countries to fulfil their official development assistance commitment, as reaffirmed in the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the decade 2001 to 2010, which was to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to developing countries and 0.2 per cent to the least developed, by 2010.

29. **Mrs. Popova** (Bulgaria), speaking on behalf of Bulgarian youth, said the most important thing was to promote youth participation in decision-making at all levels, which would require including young people in all the committees and organs of the United Nations with social development responsibilities. Youth NGOs should also be included among the organizations accredited to the United Nations. In addition, United Nations youth associations should be made more effective through cooperation with the United Nations World Forum of Youth and the sponsoring of worldwide events such as an international youth day. In terms of encouraging cooperation with the United Nations, the most important step would be to finance activities under the World Programme of Action for Youth. Budgets should be allocated to the national offices of UNDP, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and other institutions dealing with youth. Those funds should be granted not only to large, experienced NGOs but also to informal groups that were working closely with young people in developing countries, so they could make their voice heard. One might even consider instituting a permanent United Nations advisory body on youth.

30. **Mr. Puri** (India) said that, 15 years after the World Summit for Social Development, there was still much to be done. The past year had been particularly difficult for developing countries because of the economic and financial crisis. That crisis, which was not the doing of developing countries, was hampering their economic growth and compromising the progress they had been slowly achieving. Consequently it would seem imperative to pursue and even step up efforts at assistance, especially financial assistance, for developing countries. The United Nations Secretary-General himself had pointed to the direct link between funding availability and progress in achieving the MDGs.

31. He was pleased at the reference in the Secretary-General's report (A/64/158) to India as one of the rare social development success cases and said that inclusive growth was the principal theme of the eleventh national five-year plan for 2007-2012. The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA), adopted in 2006, guaranteed 100 days of work per year for adults, together with a compulsory minimum wage. That mechanism, which had been of particular benefit to women and other marginalized groups, had given work to 45 million people in the last year through rural development programmes. It was being implemented jointly with another initiative, the "Bhirat Nirman" programme for constructing rural infrastructure. A further national programme had been instituted to improve housing conditions for slum dwellers. On the education front, India had promulgated a law guaranteeing the right to education to age 14, and was giving particular attention to children with disabilities. It had also launched a literacy campaign for women, with the target of reducing the female illiteracy rate by half in three years.

32. **Mrs. Mangesho** (United Republic of Tanzania) said the implementation of the Copenhagen Programme of Action for Social Development was vital for achieving internationally agreed development objectives, including the MDGs. In this context,

Tanzania had adopted a national strategy to reduce poverty and promote growth. It had recorded solid results in this area, but the global financial, food and energy crisis and the effects of climate change were jeopardizing these accomplishments. It was imperative, then, to review policy options. The creation of decent jobs for young people, who represented 68 per cent of the national work force, was one of the Government's priorities. Several measures had been taken on this score, including adoption of a national action plan for youth employment. Steps had been taken to improve key programmes, including measures to strengthen the youth development fund, the preparation of training manuals to foster the entrepreneurial spirit, and the development of financial management projects. Finally, she recalled the proposal that Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania, had put to the General Assembly to proclaim a decade of youth employment in Africa.

33. Recognizing that the majority of the population lived in rural areas and that agriculture was therefore the main economic activity, the Tanzanian Government was working to modernize the sector to make it more productive and was appealing to the international community to encourage partnerships between the public and private sectors. In these efforts, it was important not to overlook the challenges facing older persons. The ageing of the world population was a universal concern. She welcomed the expert group meeting on the rights of older persons, held in Bonn in May 2009, and asked that the recommendations from that meeting be widely distributed among Member States and organizations concerned with the elderly. The Tanzanian Government supported the expert group's recommendation to appoint a special rapporteur on the rights of older persons. Persons with disabilities also deserved increased attention, yet they were invisible in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the MDGs. The Tanzanian Government would be submitting a resolution to include these persons in the MDGs.

34. Cooperatives were important factors for making communities economically independent, especially rural ones. The history of the cooperative movement in Tanzania dated back to independence. The Government was pursuing a clear policy in this field, striving to create a supportive environment through the establishment of federations of farm cooperatives and savings-and-loan societies. Tanzania was committed to implementing the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action on Social Development.

35. **Mrs. Mballa Evenga** (Cameroon), assessing the world social situation in 2009, pointed to increasing setbacks in progress towards the 2015 objective of halving extreme poverty, which afflicted developing countries in particular. In sub-Saharan Africa, the proportion of the population living in extreme poverty had more than doubled since 1981. Moreover, the world financial and economic crises, the volatility of food and energy prices, as well as climate change were jeopardizing the progress achieved to date, undermining all prospects for social development. In this context, it was essential to increase official development assistance, as had been agreed internationally. Despite these problems, developing countries had devoted efforts to making social development a reality, especially through strategies and policies to promote social advancement for the most vulnerable groups and to create jobs.

36. Cameroon had made poverty reduction a national priority and the various plans and programmes adopted internationally offered a road map for the Cameroonian Government's efforts. Convinced that social integration and cohesion could be assured only by reducing inequalities and promoting access to basic social services, education and health for all, and particularly young people, persons with disabilities and older persons, the country had adopted a national youth policy and launched a vast recruitment programme in the civil service. These measures were intended to reduce youth unemployment rates, caused mainly by the past restructuring of public and para-public enterprises and the freeze on hiring in the civil service, which had affected nearly 17 per cent of the workforce (32 per cent in urban areas and 9 per cent of the countryside). In order to make equality of opportunities a reality for persons with disabilities and to guarantee their special rights, Cameroon had adopted legislation making access for these persons to health care, vocational training and employment an obligation of national solidarity. It had signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in October 2008. With respect to the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, older persons had a central place in Cameroon and were involved in all important decisions. She recalled that on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Madrid Plan, Cameroon had asked for creation of a fund to finance projects and programmes to tap the potential of older persons.

37. **Mr. Giorgio** (Eritrea) said that, in light of the socio-economic impacts that these crises were having on most developing countries and poor people, stakeholders must take urgent and consistent measures to eliminate the underlying problems that continued to prevent these countries from developing. National Governments should be left free to prepare initiatives and strategies suited to their situation and specific priorities.

38. Eritrea was striving to achieve the objectives of the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and the MDGs by instituting a more equitable society that would be attentive to the problems of women, young people, the family, older people and persons with disabilities in all regions, especially in rural areas that for many decades had been denied the most elementary services. After years of conflict, the country was now engaged in relief programmes, reconstruction and construction of economic, social and physical infrastructure and had mobilized its limited human, material and financial resources to these ends. Measures such as modernizing primary and secondary schools, extending the power grid to small towns and rural areas, and reinforcing access to basic social services had already served to lengthen life expectancy and reduce infant and child mortality rates, morbidity and mortality rates from malaria, maternal mortality rates, and the number of persons living with HIV/AIDS. Mobilization of domestic manpower, in particular young people, in the context of a national development programme had played a key role in building the infrastructure on which Eritrea had based its economic and social development at the cost of immense human and financial sacrifices. The situation of persons with disabilities was systematically taken into account in the country's development programme. One of Eritrea's goals was to achieve effective participation for persons with disabilities in all spheres of social life, by improving their physical and psychological situation, their level of education and their image in society. Measures and programmes had been instituted to give these people full access to services tailored to their specific needs.

39. The international community must move beyond declarations of intent and make a reality of the objectives it had set. Coordination and cooperation at all levels would play an important role in this respect.

40. **Mrs. Kidanu** (Ethiopia), stressing the importance of the principles proclaimed at the 1995 World Summit for Social Development and in the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, said that the Ethiopian Constitution enshrined access for all Ethiopians to social security, to the extent domestic resources would allow. She cited the many agencies and laws intended to protect the social and economic rights of workers in the public and private sectors, noting that because of limited resources some provisions, such as unemployment benefits and family allowances, were not always delivered. Ethiopia considered it a universal obligation to provide social protection for disadvantaged groups such as unemployed youth, children, poor women, the elderly and persons with disabilities. It was striving unremittingly to give its people the means to become independent and to improve their living conditions in an environment consistent with equal opportunities for men and women of all generations and in all regions of the country. The successive poverty reduction programmes adopted by the Ethiopian Government bore witness to its determination to achieve the MDGs.

41. Ethiopia's was primarily an agrarian society, and rural livelihoods were dependent on small farms. Aware of the role of agriculture in creating jobs, assuring food security and improving living conditions for rural people, the Government had prepared policies and adopted strategies and programmes to speed development in this sector. These measures had contributed to the overall growth of the Ethiopian economy, which had achieved between 10 per cent and 12 per cent in each of the last five years. The Ethiopian Government had also reinforced its policies for promoting employment in urban areas. It had encouraged the creation of small and medium-sized enterprises by facilitating access to credit and offering short-term training and advisory services, together with a national programme to create housing. In the previous fiscal year, nearly 4,300 microenterprises and small businesses had been created in 55 towns. Housing programmes had met needs in this area while creating more than 16,000 urban jobs.

42. Ethiopia had also taken a number of steps to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, including a national action plan for older persons. It had also decided to apply the programme for decent work and to continue promoting social development and insertion for all population groups; to do this, however, it must be able to count on cooperation from developed countries.

43. **Mr. Hermida Castillo** (Nicaragua) said that the drastic financial and economic crises, the volatility of

food and energy prices and the effects of climate change were all the result of a capitalist system that threatened the very existence of humanity. The Government of reconciliation and national unity of the Republic of Nicaragua was giving priority to eliminating poverty and implementing economic and social development programmes that addressed the needs of the most disadvantaged classes. It had created instruments to guarantee participation by the poorest people in preparing public policies, and to give them access to services. Health care and education were free. According to the World Health Organization, Nicaragua had exceeded the MDG for halving the incidence and prevalence of tuberculosis and the mortality rate associated with this disease by 2015. Moreover, the maternal mortality rate had dropped from 90 per 100,000 live births in 2006 to 64 in 2008. In the field of education, Nicaragua had been declared a country free of illiteracy.

44. Nicaragua had adopted a law on food and nutritional security and autonomy and its special programme for food security been hailed by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. It had also adopted a number of measures to improve the status of women, in particular a programme of food production bonuses, the main beneficiaries of which were rural women. In agriculture, it had improved the delivery of services, such as the dissemination of environmentally friendly farming methods among indigenous peoples and communities of African origin.

45. Nicaragua welcomed the Bolivarian Alternative for the Americas initiative, which was based on solidarity, unity and complementarity in addressing current difficulties. He asked developed countries not to use the effects of the crisis, which they themselves had provoked, as a pretext for failing to fulfil their commitments to official development assistance.

46. **Mr. Ja'afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) stressed his country's commitment to the objectives established at the World Summit for Social Development. Syria was examining and assessing the progress made and the obstacles encountered in achieving social development for all. In light of the world crises, foreign occupation, over-exploitation of resources, the aggravation of wars of aggression and grave and inhumane violations of international law, States were facing severe difficulties that could nullify all the progress achieved in the area of social development and the efforts under way to establish stable, safe and just societies in which citizens could live in dignity. If people living under occupation were to achieve the objectives of the Copenhagen World Summit and the MDGs, among others, they would need to accede to independence and to exercise their right to self-determination.

47. Syria was pursuing a just economic and social policy that sought to distribute income fairly and involve the poor in designing measures to improve their situation. Young people were encouraged to build their own future and to participate in decisions concerning them, especially with respect to employment. Syria had signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol in 2009.

48. Syria had examined all the reports of the Secretary-General on social development, and regretted that they were silent on the disastrous consequences of Israel's occupation of Arab territories in Palestine, in the Syrian Golan and in Lebanon. Syria was also disappointed that the Commission on Sustainable Development had not addressed the question of the disabilities resulting from the use on Syrian territory of weapons that could have long-term repercussions such as cluster bombs and antipersonnel mines.

49. **Mrs. Kavun** (Ukraine) said that in 2009 the Ukrainian Government was striving to forestall a drop in living standards and to prepare and apply measures to minimize the fallout from the financial and economic crisis. Government credit to the financial sector had risen steadily from January to June, and funds earmarked for social development were up by 2.1 per cent over 2008. The minimum wage had been raised by 3.3 per cent on 1 April 1991. The rules governing social assistance benefits had been changed to accommodate the unemployed. Average nominal wages had increased by 6.1 per cent over 2008, and the average pension by 10.7 per cent. To combat unemployment and deal with seasonal work problems, the Ukrainian Government had taken a number of steps that had created some 295,000 jobs and had cut unemployment by 0.2 per cent to June 2009. It has also amended social insurance legislation and had prepared draft laws on the protection of pregnant women and mothers. In addition, it had boosted social services for vulnerable people, in particular those with disabilities, orphans and children hospitalized in public long-term care facilities.

The meeting rose at 1 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/64/SR.4

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
21 October 2009

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 6 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Penke ..... (Latvia)

Contents

Agenda item 61: Social development (*continued*)

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*)

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*)

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09-54349 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 61: Social development (*continued*) (A/64/180 and A/64/65)

(a) Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly (*continued*) (A/64/157, A/64/158 and A/64/158/Corr.1)

(b) Social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family (*continued*) (A/64/61-E/2009/3, A/64/132, A/64/132/Corr.1 and A/64/134)

(c) Follow-up to the International Year of Older Persons: Second World Assembly on Ageing (*continued*) (A/64/127)

1. **Mr. Tachie-Menson** (Ghana) said that while his delegation was encouraged by the progress made towards reducing the level of absolute poverty, it was regrettable that the number of poor people had increased in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Middle East, North Africa and Central Asia. Climate change and the global financial crisis had exacerbated the difficult socio-economic conditions arising from the food and fuel crisis in many developing countries.

2. Ghana had been implementing policies with a strong emphasis on social protection, chief among them the National Social Protection Strategy. A key component of that programme was the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP), which provided cash transfers to the extreme poor, orphans and other vulnerable children, the elderly poor and persons with severe disabilities. It was projected that 35,000 households would benefit from the LEAP initiative by December 2009. Other social protection and poverty reduction interventions included a microfinance program targeting poor women, a national health insurance initiative and a public school feeding programme.

3. The National Council on Persons with Disability had been established in April 2009 to facilitate the implementation of the Persons With Disability Act of 2006. His Government was also revising its policies on ageing in order to address the special needs and protect the fundamental rights of the aged. In addition, a new national youth policy had been devised, and the National Youth Employment Programme had created over 100,000 jobs for youth since its establishment in 2007. Lastly, a national apprenticeship programme was providing vocational skills training for high school graduates unable to continue their education.

4. **Ms. Becerra** (Peru), speaking as a youth delegate, said that her country would have to tackle the challenge of economic inequality by equipping youth with the necessary tools to thrive in the era of globalization. The inability of low-income Latin American youth to access quality education intensified the cycle of poverty in the region. Comprehensive educational reforms would be needed to break that cycle, as would vocational training, such as that provided by the Peruvian Ministry of Labour to youths through its PROJoven programme. Nevertheless, without also addressing factors like hunger and chronic malnutrition, which could hinder mental and physical growth in children, such Government efforts would be futile. Indeed, food security remained a daily challenge for millions of Latin Americans living under the poverty line.

5. Most alarming was the fact that 86 per cent of Latin Americans living in extreme poverty hailed from middle-income countries, but the international community refused to allocate them more financial and cash resources to combat poverty, believing that those countries already had sufficient means. While Peru had made progress towards poverty reduction, it was essential that humanitarian agencies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) continued to support Government efforts in that area, as over a third of the country's population remained below the poverty line.

6. With regard to climate change, she noted that Peru was one of the countries most vulnerable to the effects of global warming, despite being responsible for only about 1 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. A concrete example was the melting of the Pastoruri glacier in the Andes, which had led to a water supply crisis in the coastal and mountainous regions of the country. Deforestation resulting from illegal logging was another environmental issue of concern. Technical and financial cooperation between countries would be needed in order to assist middle-income countries in mitigating the harmful effects of climate change.

7. **Mr. bin Baishan** (Saudi Arabia) said that the discrimination experienced by older persons went

unnoticed due to the absence of a comprehensive international convention on their rights. His country's experience in caring for the elderly dated back to the 1953 establishment of a special nursing home, which had eventually come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs. The Ministry had since adopted a national action plan for the elderly based on social customs and the Islamic precepts of parental kinship and filial duty.

8. Efforts undertaken by his Government in the field of elderly care included providing an adequate source of income to aged persons after retirement, establishing national coordination mechanisms among governmental and community organizations providing elderly care, and encouraging the private sector to establish centres for the provision of services to the elderly. Care for the elderly was provided in the home as well as through charitable community organizations and private institutions supervised by or affiliated with the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs.

9. A national committee on elderly care had been established to develop programmes and collect data and statistics in order to meet their needs. Economic support was extended to all older persons based on their employment history.

10. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia was participating actively in international and regional conferences on ageing, such as the second World Assembly on Ageing held in Madrid, Spain in 2002, and was working towards implementation of recommendations made at the Assembly.

11. **Ms. Sapag** (Chile) reiterated the importance of continued implementation of international recommendations on the issue of ageing. In that connection, her Government had held the third follow-up meeting on the 2007 Brasilia Declaration earlier that month, under the auspices of the National Service for Older People (SENAMA). Her delegation also supported the drafting of a convention on the rights of older persons and the appointment of a Special Rapporteur.

12. Chile welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the second World Assembly on Ageing. By citing the mistreatment, violence and neglect faced by older persons as grave violations of their rights, the report illustrated the need to strengthen mechanisms that would uphold those rights. Chile had organized its policy on the aged around three key objectives, namely, guaranteeing respect for the rights of older persons, creating a social safety net for them and promoting their social inclusion. Women over 60 would directly benefit from pension reform measures currently being considered. In addition, civil society organizations had been instrumental in the implementation of recommendations made in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing.

13. **Mrs. Shawish** (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) said that despite the international community's commitment to implementing the objectives of the 1995 World Summit on Social Development, the global financial and economic crisis, coupled with the failure of advanced countries to meet their commitments, had contributed significantly to the rise in poverty and unemployment, the spread of infectious diseases and the lack of social security, repercussions felt most by the poor. Her delegation called on the international community and global financial institutions and donors to fulfil the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and in the Millennium Declaration.

14. Since the 1970s, Libya had adopted policies aimed at renewing society by attending to the needs of different groups within it and focusing specifically on youth. In that connection, her country had hosted a World Youth Forum in 2007, at which recommendations had been made on encouraging youth participation in the political arena and in decision-making bodies, in addition to promoting job creation. Libya had also launched a project to combat poverty, unemployment and diseases on the African continent in 2006.

15. Based on its belief that persons with special needs had an important role to play in bringing about social renewal, her Government had acceded to the International Convention on the Rights of Persons With Disabilities in 2008. Furthermore, it supported United Nations efforts to implement the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and affirmed its commitment to the Programme of Action of the World Summit on Social Development. Libya had adopted a number of economic and social policies to ensure the efficient use of financial resources allocated for social development.

16. **Ms. Sabja** (Bolivia) said that the Plurinational State of Bolivia promoted the VIVIR BIEN (Live Well) development model based on complementarity and solidarity among peoples and enjoyment of natural resources in harmony with nature and other human

beings. That model, in turn, served as the basis for the national development plan, which aimed to create a dignified, democratic, productive and sovereign Bolivia.

17. In that development model, the State assumed the role of guarantor of human rights and collective well-being. The New Political Constitution reaffirmed the rights to life, food sovereignty, decent work and universal access to potable water among other basic services. Furthermore, Bolivia offered free, universal health care to all its citizens, and it had recently become the third country in Latin America to eradicate illiteracy.

18. Under the National Housing Plan, decent housing had been built and made available to the most vulnerable populations, which consisted of indigenous families for the most part. A new agrarian reform law had granted communities deeds that allowed them to farm their land and maintain livestock within the context of a cooperative economy.

19. The New Political Constitution had established a normative framework for the elimination of all forms of discrimination, most notably those that targeted indigenous peoples, and it also included provisions that protected the rights of persons with disabilities. Moreover, the Constitution guaranteed the protection and active participation of youth in all facets of the development process, in addition to guaranteeing the rights of older adults. Bolivia was addressing the demographic challenge posed by the rising number of older persons by adopting public policies that ensured their enjoyment of all their rights and promoted their economic well-being.

20. While significant progress towards a society for all had been made on several fronts, many challenges remained, owing mainly to the devastation wrought by the global financial and economic crisis, along with the food and energy crises. In order to face those challenges and effectively build more inclusive societies, national efforts would have to be supplemented by strengthened international cooperation and the provision of technical assistance.

21. **Mr. Kpayedo** (Togo) said that the economic, financial, food and energy crises the world was facing had abruptly derailed the progress made on social issues since the Copenhagen Summit in 1995 and the Millennium Summit in 2000. In light of the devastating impact of those crises, urgent action at both the national and global levels was necessary in order to reduce poverty and improve living conditions around the world. Togo, a country whose population boom was adversely affecting the State's ability to meet the basic needs of its people, had adopted specific measures to achieve sustainable development and address the population issue. Some examples included the establishment of a national committee to follow up on the International Conference on Population and Development, a nationwide survey and an overhaul of national population policy in order to address current realities.

22. With regard to poverty eradication, his Government had formulated a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy in conjunction with target populations and all relevant actors working in the area of development. The Government initiative sought to improve living conditions through reinforcing political and economic governance, developing human capital and reducing regional inequalities. The Comprehensive Document on the Poverty Reduction Strategy for the years 2009 to 2011 listed the main priority measures adopted and provided an in-depth look at the economic and social situation in order to allow for optimal allocation of resources in tackling various goals directly related to poverty reduction, such as improving health services, promoting gender equality and facilitating access to potable water.

23. Turning to employment, he noted that his Government had created jobs in the health sector for nearly 5,000 youths, including a number of persons with disabilities, in addition to increasing the minimum wage by 100 per cent.

24. Given that nearly 70 per cent of the Togolese population was between 15 and 35 years of age, it was evident that youth would have a crucial role in the sustainable development process. Bearing that in mind, the Government had developed a national youth policy that addressed their concerns, recognized them as development partners and facilitated their access to State programmes and services. Furthermore, the National Youth Council had been established in 2008 to coordinate action towards implementation of the national youth policy.

25. His Government had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2008, and was actively working to implement it through such measures as vocational training programmes and

affirmative action initiatives aimed at ensuring the professional integration of persons with disabilities.

26. **Mr. Muita** (Kenya) said that several regions of the world would fall far short of reaching the Millennium Development Goals. While some countries had reduced their poverty levels, the absolute number of poor people in Africa, Latin America and Asia was growing. As previous efforts had focused on short-term crises rather than longer-term solutions, more investment was needed in human resources, particularly in education, health and job creation. Kenya's Vision 2030 economic development plan included ambitious but attainable long-term goals and emphasized partnerships and resource mobilization.

27. The family should be supported and involved in all aspects of decision-making. Yet despite Kenya's sweeping reforms, the lack of sufficient resources made it difficult to meet the needs of young people and to address unemployment, HIV/AIDS and delinquency. A review of Kenya's Economic Recovery Strategy for Wealth and Employment Creation 2003-2007 had shown that, with policy planning, implementation monitoring and accountability, progress could be achieved.

28. Kenya's successful campaigns against HIV/AIDS meant that Goal 6 would certainly be achieved. A national job creation programme would give priority to young people in both formal and informal employment and a youth-friendly resource centre had been established.

29. Kenya was committed to the United Nations Principles for Older Persons as contained in the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing. A total of $2.6 million had been set aside for protection programmes and a pilot scheme for financial support for older persons would eventually cover the whole country.

30. Despite the global recession and increasing competition among priorities, there had been some successes in various countries. The sharing of good practices would benefit all and sharing responsibility was the only way to achieve the social development of all societies.

31. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) said that rapid progress in science, technology, education and health had increased social tensions and inequalities worldwide, with multiple crises intensifying the adverse impacts on the most vulnerable groups. However, the renewed confidence in multilateralism reflected a more positive phase in international cooperation. At the current session, the Committee should respond to the crises by developing strategies for placing people at the centre of development. Income generation alone was not sufficient to eradicate poverty. Growth with equity, human dignity and social justice would be achieved by addressing persistent inequalities and the needs of disadvantaged groups.

32. Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation and third largest democracy, was promoting socially integrative policies. Its democracy was based on the indigenous principle of mutual assistance, and the family unit was a priority area of Indonesia's long-term development programme. Family policies were designed to ensure productive employment and decent work, while social protection measures included pension provisions, work insurance and health and child benefits. There were a number of programmes to promote income-generating activities, including small business loans, for poor families. As cooperatives were the backbone of the Indonesian economy and had proved resilient in times of crisis, his Government welcomed the proposal to promote cooperatives and raise awareness of their socio-economic contribution.

33. Indonesia was strengthening its legal framework on youth issues to help young people to achieve their potential and was close to achieving the national objective of universal education. Gender focal points and working groups of line ministries and development agencies were mainstreaming gender and addressing the challenges posed by the current economic and financial crises. Other social policies included the National Plan of Action for Persons with Disabilities and a National Action Plan on Ageing.

34. In the current downturn, short-term stability and long-term development were both important. Social protection was central to inclusive growth with poverty reduction, and human resources development was a key element for breaking the intergenerational cycle of poverty. Indonesia had organized the Bali Democracy Forum in December 2008 as the first Asian intergovernmental forum on democracy and would continue to support it as a learning exchange for the international community.

35. **Ms. Rivas Pérez** (Dominican Republic), speaking as her country's youth delegate, said that the

Dominican Republic was aware that investment in the young generation was a contribution to the nation's future. It was also essential to involve young people in the search for solutions to the challenges of globalization, and the youth delegates at the General Assembly were one of many positive examples of their inclusion in international forums.

36. Although many young workers were overqualified for their posts, others with few academic qualifications had limited options. Yet many were obliged to leave their studies in order to generate an income. All Member States should provide young people with opportunities for decent and productive work to support fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals.

37. Young people were as vulnerable as other groups to environmental degradation. It was important to raise awareness of such issues as climate change, since the impact on future generations would be even stronger. Increased energy consumption, the growing world population and vast social differences were all factors contributing to climate change. The Dominican Republic, as an island State, was also affected by factors such as variations in sea levels and natural disasters. Effective measures should be implemented to guarantee the right to a healthy environment.

38. The guidelines and goals of the World Programme of Action for Youth would change the lives of millions of young people throughout the world. Her country had promulgated the General Law on Youth in 2000 and had reviewed its youth policies in 2008. Wasting the potential of young people was an impediment to economic growth.

39. **Ms. Kenewendo** (Botswana), speaking as her country's youth delegate, said that youth unemployment was a significant challenge in Botswana and that poverty was a problem, especially in rural areas. The prevalence of HIV/AIDS was decreasing, but the disease had already had a negative impact on productive labour, orphaning many children and leaving many people destitute.

40. Botswana had been the third poorest country in the world in 1966 but had come to be a middle-income country through collaboration with Governments and multilateral agencies from all over the world. In developing its youth organizations, Botswana was focusing on the areas of management and administration, substantive ideas and resource mobilization.

41. Botswana was willing to collaborate actively with youth departments and organizations across the globe and wished to learn from and share its experiences with others. The success of the national development programme would depend on the success of youth empowerment and development initiatives.

42. Her Government allocated 30 per cent of the annual national budget to education. Substantial resources were also used to provide credit facilities to young people for agriculture and small businesses, while a national internship programme was available for university graduates. All ministries had youth officers to deal with youth-specific issues and significant efforts were made to provide sports infrastructure and promote community-level participation in sports.

43. She reiterated an open invitation to the global community to engage in mutually beneficial partnerships in youth development. The participation of youth delegates offered opportunities for planting the seeds of global integration and lasting friendships among nations, while providing useful training to the leaders of tomorrow.

44. **Mr. Sinfungpunkaree** (Thailand), speaking as a youth delegate, said that young people today faced many challenges and problems while they lived with the consequences of decisions taken by previous generations. Yet their voices tended to be marginalized, although they could contribute to developing more effective solutions to major concerns such as equality in education, global warming and poverty.

45. Equal opportunity was the best tool for creating equality and justice in society as a whole. As a child in a Yao hill village in northern Thailand, he had been fortunate to be able to attend school and wished other children to have the same opportunity. The United Nations could help countries to understand that education policies were only effective if based on equal opportunity.

46. One of the main obstacles to youth development was lack of access to health care. Despite his Government's efforts to promote universal health-care services, problems still persisted, especially in border and rural areas. All States should ensure that

underprivileged children fully enjoyed their human rights and had the means to live in health and dignity.

47. **Ms. Limskul** (Thailand), speaking as a youth delegate, said that the international community tended to focus on the consequences of inequality, rather than taking real action on inequality itself. Inequality was also a factor to consider when addressing global warming, as its impacts were not dispersed equally.

48. Poverty was another aspect of inequality: the poor lacked equal access to resources and were marginalized from economic and social structures. Rather than working to raise income, the international community should work to ensure that the least privileged groups had equal access to social protection, health care and other resources.

49. Her Government promoted a welfare-based and rights-based society that would guarantee universal education, universal health care and equal opportunity for all. Promotion of an equal and just society was the best way to tackle poverty.

50. Young people in all countries were a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. If they were given the opportunities to fulfil their potential, society could benefit from their energy, perspectives and creative ideas.

51. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) noted that the goal of social integration was to create a society that included all social groups and individuals in political, social and economic structures. A consensus based on solidarity was needed, that reduced exclusion to a minimum and supported disadvantaged people, so that they too could contribute to development.

52. Efforts to build a more equitable and inclusive society were the foundation of Colombian development policies. Despite the global crises, the Government continued to implement social equity and poverty reduction policies, making major investments in infrastructure, education, health and other areas to build human and social capital. National and local programmes were designed to enable the poorest and most vulnerable to have access to goods and services and sustainable opportunities for income generation.

53. The main objective of national social policy was to ensure access to quality education, social security benefits, labour markets and social promotion mechanisms for all Colombians. Human resource development was a key component of development strategies and occupational training was essential for creating an inclusive society. The National Learning Service, a technical training institution, had accepted over 6 million students in 2008 and the goal was to have 6.2 million places by the end of 2009.

54. Social protection programmes contributed to reducing poverty, vulnerability and persistent inequalities. As of March 2009, 90 per cent of the population (about 40 million persons) had access to health care. A State-subsidized programme covered over 20 million, including the unemployed, informal workers, the poor, indigenous populations and displaced persons. Universal coverage should be achieved in 2010.

55. The expanded programme on immunization and the Integrated Management of Childhood Illnesses contributed to progress towards Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5. The sexual and reproductive health policy, which included maternal mortality prevention and monitoring, was a priority at both national and local levels.

56. Some particularly vulnerable social groups suffered various forms of discrimination. Initiatives had been implemented to generate more stable income for young people and to expand their training and access to the labour market. The national policy on ageing granted benefits to persons over 62 years of age to ensure their rights to education, recreation and health were being met and to improve their general living conditions.

57. Colombia's disability policy helped persons with disabilities to achieve maximum independence and participation in civic life. National initiatives helped institutions and public and private organizations to remove barriers to their participation and improved the quality and timeliness of access to rehabilitation services.

58. The international community as a whole benefited from efforts to build an inclusive, equitable and fair society. International cooperation, technical assistance and technology transfer should also be strengthened. Despite the economic crisis, priority should be given to social investments to reduce poverty, inequalities and discrimination.

59. **Ms. Al Kendi** (United Arab Emirates) said that her country had achieved significant progress in the areas of social and economic development. The United Arab Emirates had managed to contain the financial crisis by taking a number of precautionary measures aimed at avoiding disruption of social and economic development projects and ensuring that individual and family income levels remained stable.

60. In 2009, the United Arab Emirates had allocated 23 per cent of the national budget to the educational sector, bringing about qualitative and quantitative improvements in educational curricula. With regard to housing, health and social protection, her Government had adopted a comprehensive strategic plan for 2008-2010 that guaranteed the fundamental rights of all members of society, including the aged, children and persons with disabilities, as well as universal access to basic services.

61. As women constituted half of society and were equal to men in rights and responsibilities, her Government had provided women with the education and training they needed in order to participate fully in society. As a result, women currently accounted for 63 per cent of the work force and were part of the decision-making process, enjoying representation in the executive, legislative and judicial branches of Government.

62. The United Arab Emirates had adopted various legislative measures to regulate the job market, bringing it in line with international employment laws and standards that protected the rights of workers and the interests of employers. Over 2.5 billion dirhams had been allocated to health care, also deemed a top priority. Her country was working to combat infectious diseases, such as the H1N1 virus, by making vaccines available; it called upon the international community to spare no effort in coordinating cooperation against such diseases. The United Arab Emirates had also provided over 70 billion dollars in financial and material assistance to countries stricken by poverty, conflict and natural disasters through a number of national and international civil society institutions. In addition, the State had recently established an office for the coordination of charitable aid, the first of its kind in the Middle East.

63. **Mr. Argüello** (Argentina) said that his Government supported social advocacy and assistance measures that promoted social integration and human development, the provision of services and equal opportunities for vulnerable groups, protection of the family and strengthening of community organizations. Argentina was committed to a democratic and inclusive society with respect for human rights, and it recognized the role of the State in countering social exclusion. Public policies reflected that conviction.

64. The ageing of the population was a gradual but relentless process in Latin America and the Caribbean. In absolute terms, the number of persons aged over 60 years in 2000 had been 41 million; that figure would increase by 57 million by 2025. The proportion of persons aged over 60 years would quadruple between 2000 and 2050. Yet the international community was not allocating sufficient human and financial resources to address the issue and to fully implement the Madrid Plan of Action. Argentina would continue to work with other countries to strengthen the national, regional and international mechanisms that guaranteed the rights of older persons and their well-being, including through consideration of a legally binding instrument.

65. Argentina was working to ensure that persons with disabilities enjoyed the full exercise of their rights. The Government's Families for Social Inclusion programme was moving away from conditional income transfers to focus on efforts to support families and encourage their participation in improving their quality of life. Public policies should give young people opportunities by providing training programmes, first employment opportunities and opportunities for participation in economic, social and cultural development. Cooperativism and an economy of solidarity were State policy and cooperatives and mutual associations were supported as a form of participatory, democratic and distributive ownership. The social economy was a key element of Argentina's approach. Human rights and development could not be considered separate public policy issues as measures in either area had an impact on the other and affected the social texture of the whole community.

66. **Ms. Stewart** (International Labour Organization) said that the participants in the Summit on the Global Jobs Crisis organized by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in June 2009 had adopted a Global Jobs Pact, which offered guidance for national and international policies to stimulate economic recovery and provide protection for workers and their families, while reducing the time needed to return to economic

growth and employment recovery. Crisis-response measures could be adapted to countries' specific situations and included measures to keep people in employment, support enterprises and accelerate job creation recovery, as well as social protection systems. Social dialogue would play an important role in determining the most effective measures for recovery and international labour standards would make an essential contribution.

67. The number of young persons unemployed at the end of 2009 was estimated at between 78 and 90 million. The Global Job Pact called for measures to support young people at risk, including the mainstreaming of youth employment in national development frameworks, national action plans for youth employment and packages of training programmes, job-placement schemes and measures to promote youth entrepreneurship.

68. ILO was collecting data on youth employment, analysing the effectiveness of labour market policies and programmes and collaborating with multilateral and other international institutions to ensure policy coherence in national initiatives affecting youth employment. It was working with other United Nations agencies and some national actors to strengthen national capacity to address the risks of irregular youth migration.

69. Ageing of the global population meant that more people were retiring and living longer, while young people were entering the labour market in smaller numbers and at a later age, which called into question the sustainability of social security systems. Age-specific legislation had shown mixed results and new thinking was needed to create an environment that set the right incentives, encouraged the right behaviours and allowed for adjustment. ILO was preparing a report on the new global demographic and labour force trends and key challenges for employment and social protection systems, with proposals for policy responses.

70. Changing dynamics in families and gender roles made it necessary to analyse female labour market participation carefully. The lack of effective measures for reconciling work and family responsibilities limited development. The State and all social actors should cooperate to find solutions, with a focus on public policies to make work and family life compatible. ILO Convention No. 156, concerning workers with family responsibilities (1981), was the key international labour standard in that area. It called on States to prevent any form of discrimination against workers with family responsibilities.

71. A recently published ILO study in Latin America and the Caribbean had analysed the profound transformation in work and family situations in the region, evaluated existing legal and policy frameworks and elaborated public policy proposals and recommendations on how to promote a better work-family balance in order to ensure gender equality at work.

72. ILO would soon publish "Workplace solutions for childcare", a book to help policy-makers and social partners to build partnerships and find practical solutions for childcare. In the framework of ILO global and national strategies to promote Millennium Development Goals 4 and 5, a maternity protection resource kit was being prepared in partnership with the World Health Organization.

The meeting rose at 5.00 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/64/SR.5

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session
Official Records

Distr.: General
19 November 2009
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 5th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 7 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Penke ..... (Latvia)

Contents

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice*

Agenda item 105: Drug control*

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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09-55418 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 3.05 p.m.

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (A/64/99, A/64/121, A/64/123, A/64/130, A/64/227-S/2009/402, A/C.3/64/L.2)

Agenda item 105: Drug control (A/64/120, A/64/92-E/2009/98)

Statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

1. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) recalled that Member States had had the foresight 10 years earlier to reinforce their collective effort against drugs, transnational organized crime and terrorism, holding a special session of the General Assembly devoted to narcotics, signing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and adopting Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) creating the Al-Qaida and Taliban Sanctions Committee, followed by resolutions 1368 (2001) and 1373 (2001) to reinforce the multilateral response to international terrorism. The results, he noted, had been mixed, but the drug problem could still be contained by improving health, re-establishing justice and enforcing security against terror. To do so, however, Member States of the United Nations and all other stakeholders would need to show real determination and forge alliances.

2. Faced with the sinister triad of drugs, crime and terrorism, UNODC was working to promote the virtuous trio of health, justice and security. At its instigation, the United Nations system was now redirecting its drug control activities towards promoting health. According to the policy statement adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009, an integrated and balanced strategy must be pursued to combat the worldwide drug problem, and the Office was cooperating with the World Health Organization (WHO) to improve treatment for drug users, especially in developing countries, so as to reduce demand. It was also cooperating with Governments and local authorities to facilitate the social integration of marginalized groups, encourage the decriminalization of drug abuse, and support improved treatment for imprisoned drug addicts in order to halt the spread of HIV.

3. On the supply side, the Office was supporting alternative development programmes in countries that produced opium, cocaine and cannabis, contributing in this way to economic growth and security in poor regions of the world. However, with drug-related crimes threatening to destabilize the entire world, legalization was not a viable solution, for it risked exacerbating the problem and sparking a social and humanitarian catastrophe, particularly in developing countries. In fact, not a single Member State had proposed such an option.

4. UNODC was therefore encouraging the prevention and treatment of drug addiction, and was using its expertise to help Member States combat drug-related crime. It was working as well with various agencies to implement regional action plans against drugs and crime in Africa, in the Americas and in Europe, and it had provided support for the establishment of regional information centres in Central Asia and in the Gulf region, as well as for the trilateral initiative associating Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan.

5. UNODC was committed to security and justice for all, and had made the struggle against organized crime one of its priority fields of intervention, recognizing that this form of crime now had a worldwide and macroeconomic dimension and represented a threat so severe that it had been the subject of several debates in the Security Council. Criminals were attracted to regions of the world beset by insecurity, conflict and corruption. Security and development were therefore essential and must go hand-in-hand with the establishment of justice. For this reason, the Office was cooperating with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat to consolidate the rule of law in such countries as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone, and was helping to strengthen judicial capacities for combating piracy, terrorism and the various forms of transit trafficking in the Horn of Africa. It was also planning to tackle the links between the criminal underground and the business world, by helping to improve the techniques for combating money-laundering and identity theft and, in general, to promote judicial integrity with a view to reducing corruption.

6. Better use could be made of the United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and against Corruption. With respect to the latter instrument, Member States should also take the opportunity of the Conference of States Parties, scheduled for Doha in November 2009, to define a mechanism for monitoring its enforcement, and they

should call upon the expertise of the Office for taking all the measures mentioned in that treaty.

7. The United Nations continued to give great importance to these problems, and the international community now had the means to deal with them more effectively. On this point, the World Drug Report offered an overview of the situation and the impact that crime was having on development in several regions of the world. A world crime report would also be released shortly. In addition, the Office had reinforced its capacities, extended its scope of action, and forged partnerships with other United Nations agencies, regional organizations, international financial institutions, and civil society.

8. It must be noted that the Office, with a budget representing only 1 per cent of the United Nations ordinary budget, was encountering difficulties in carrying out its mission, because of inadequate funds. Member States should try to remedy this problem and take full advantage of all the resources and specialized expertise of the Office for dealing with these three scourges that continue to threaten humanity.

9. **Mr. Rastam** (Malaysia) asked for details on the UNODC role in combating money-laundering, with respect in particular to capacity-building, and on steps taken to coordinate its activities with those of other institutions concerned, such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, so as to avoid duplication of efforts.

10. **Mr. Amangona** (Côte d'Ivoire) referred to the letter of 28 July 2009 sent to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Guinea to the United Nations (A/64/227-S/2009/402) reporting that chemical precursors used in the manufacture of explosives and narcotics and originating in Côte d'Ivoire had entered Guinean territory. Astonished at this accusation, he wanted to assure the international community that Côte d'Ivoire was not engaged in any way in such trade. In fact it was itself the victim of the illegal dumping of toxic products on its territory, it was combating the traffic in drugs and illicit substances, and it could never be a staging point for this kind of traffic toward friendly countries. It reserved the right, after an investigation, to report to the General Assembly on how that document should be dealt with.

11. **Mr. Vimal** (India) asked what importance UNODC attached to promoting alternative livelihoods in regions where people lived primarily from crops used to produce drugs, and what funding the Office had available for this activity. He also wanted to know the Office's priorities and he asked for clarification on the priority it seemed to be giving to treating drug abuse rather than combating drug production. He also wondered what effects the economic and financial crisis was having on the Office's financing and activities.

12. **Mrs. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone) mentioned the considerable efforts that her country, just emerging from a conflict, was making to combat organized transnational crime, and drug trafficking in particular.

13. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) asked whether, despite its financial troubles, UNODC was planning to update the tools and manuals it supplied to Member States.

14. **Mrs. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) pointed to the difficulties her country was facing, as a country of transit, in securing the necessary funds to combat human trafficking, terrorism and illegal immigration, and wondered what solutions might be envisaged.

15. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), responding to the question posed by the representative of Malaysia, explained that money-laundering had been conducted on a small scale until the 1980s and had been used to recycle cash, but it had then come to be conducted through financial institutions as well. The Financial Action Task Force on Money-Laundering (FATF), which was created at that time, had succeeded in curbing the recycling of dirty money through the banking system, and money-laundering had now reverted to its initial method. Thus, several States had recently impounded large sums of cash originating from drug trafficking. The financial crisis had allowed organized crime to penetrate the financial system once again, injecting liquidity into it. UNODC was examining the various forms of money-laundering and was attempting to avoid duplicating the efforts of other institutions concerned.

16. Responding to the statement of the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, the Executive Director said he was unaware that Côte d'Ivoire was suspected of being the source of the chemical precursors used in other countries of West Africa. Confirming the presence of clandestine laboratories in the Republic of Guinea, he said he was ready to discuss this matter with representatives of Côte d'Ivoire and the other countries of the coastal region of West Africa, and added that the Security Council would be devoting a session to this matter in early November.

17. In response to the question raised by the representative of India, the Executive Director agreed that it was very important to find alternative livelihoods to replace the crops used to produce drugs, particularly since they were found in poor countries. The situation was not everywhere the same, however, and the measures adopted must be properly tailored. In effect, the market could respond either to demand or to supply. In Afghanistan, it was determined by supply, in the sense that that country produced twice as much opium as the world consumed. On the other hand, in Andean countries the market was ruled by demand. In Afghanistan and in Colombia, UNODC was supporting farmers who decided to turn to legitimate crops, by helping them to market their products and contributing to the establishment of infrastructure facilities. The results in Afghanistan were indeed encouraging, for wheat production was now taking over land from opium. With respect to the financing of the Office, the voluntary contributions on which it relied in part had risen by 50 per cent since 2002, but were still hostage to the priorities of donors. Moreover, the Office lacked the funds to carry out its basic activities. It would be well if Member States were to remedy this problem, which was making the Office particularly vulnerable.

18. Responding to the observation by the representative of Sierra Leone, the Executive Director expressed his admiration for the efforts made by that country to combat drug trafficking, and mentioned the role played by the representative of the Secretary-General in Sierra Leone, while noting that the Office conducted its programmes at the regional rather than national level.

19. In response to the intervention of the representative of Pakistan, the Executive Director recalled that that country, which was not a drugs producer, was a country of transit for opium and its derivatives, heroin and morphine, coming from Afghanistan. Referring to the technical tools and manuals prepared by the Office, he agreed that they were quickly becoming obsolete, but he pointed out that the Office's financing problems had no impact here, as it was for basic activities, in particular field monitoring, that funds were lacking, and not for project execution. In addition, the Office was in contact at the ministerial level with Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran with a view to implementing trilateral cooperation to prevent the trafficking of drugs that were produced in Afghanistan and that transited through the other two countries; these efforts appeared to be bearing fruit.

20. Responding to the intervention of the representative of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Executive Director confirmed that that country was a country of transit but fortunately, as was the case with many other Arab countries of transit, it had virtually no drug addicts. He noted that the Office was helping countries in the region to combat transit traffic. Thanks to financing provided by countries neighbouring the Syrian Arab Republic, UNODC had been able to open an office in Cairo, covering the entire region, a subregional office in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya covering the countries of the Maghreb, and another in the Gulf region. UNODC intended henceforth to focus its efforts on the Middle East, the third facet of the very complex programme it was pursuing in the region.

21. **Mr. Vimal** (India) asked the Executive Director to give further details on the World Crime Report he had mentioned in his statement, indicating in particular what types of crime would be examined, whether the report would contain rankings, and whether it would address narcoterrorism.

22. **Mr. Babadoudou** (Benin), reacting to the Executive Director's response to the representative of Côte d'Ivoire, asked whether there might be duplicity on the part of the authorities of some countries that earned revenues from drug crops, and he noted that those were sometimes traditional crops that countries could not do without. He wondered therefore what solutions might be envisaged. As well, he said, there were confirmed links between drug traffickers, money-laundering and election financing. He wanted to know what difficulties these problems were posing for the Office.

23. **Mr. Mosoti** (Kenya) expressed his country's satisfaction with the work of UNODC and its collaboration with Kenya, especially on the question of witness protection, crime control, and capacity-building. He noted that the region was host to a great many refugees from Somalia, and a theatre for small arms trafficking and piracy. He asked for details on UNODC activities in this area, and wanted as well to hear the Office's recommendations on decriminalizing drug abuse, ways of preventing people from taking up drug consumption, and possible alternatives to imprisonment.

24. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)), responding to the question raised by the representative of India, explained that the Office was nowhere close to publishing a world crime report that would be a

counterpart to the World Drug Report. While there were statistics available on drug trafficking, the situation with respect to organizes transnational crime was quite different. The main difficulty was to agree on units of measurement, for the important thing was to measure not perceptions but reality. In February, UNODC had produced a first world report on human trafficking. It has also presented to the Security Council a report on organized crime in West Africa, in Central America, in the Caribbean and in the Balkans, and it was about to publish one on East Africa. This represented a first step towards producing a global study of organized crime, and he would welcome the assistance and advice of States for this purpose.

25. Responding to the representative of Benin, the Executive Director confirmed that factories producing synthetic drugs had recently appeared in West Africa. On the other hand, with respect to possible duplicity on the part of certain Governments, he did not think that this was the case, even in the major producing countries, for the very good reason that over the last century no country had been able to achieve lasting development by relying on illicit activities. The evidence suggested very clearly that there was corruption in these countries and that it facilitated drug trafficking – money could not be laundered, for example, without what was called the "white collar mafia" – but one could not speak of duplicity at the official level.

26. Responding to the statement of the representative of Kenya, the Executive Director stressed that that country was suffering from activities in Somalia and the lack of control on the part of the Somali Government, and he noted that UNODC was the main institution combating piracy in Kenya. Actions needed to be pursued not only at sea but also on land; steps must be taken to counter this phenomena by promoting development and improving economic conditions in the pirates' home countries, and making use of the courts. UNODC must therefore help improve the judicial system in the region's most seriously affected countries, particularly Kenya, and Member States must also contribute their support. As to decriminalizing drug abuse, UNODC had consistently pursued this line of action. The Office considered that drug abuse in its many forms was mainly a health problem. The Executive Director asked Member States not to put drug addicts in jail but to take them in hand and provide them care, and to be much tougher towards the drug barons.

27. **Mrs. Booker** (Bahamas) asked what cooperation projects the Office was planning with Caribbean countries.

28. **Mr. Costa** (Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)) confirmed that UNODC was cooperating with countries of the region, although it had had to close its office in Barbados because it was ineffective. Together with the World Bank, the Office was working to prepare a report on crime in the Caribbean, and its causes. The countries of this region were poor, their population was young, there were great income disparities, and justice systems were ineffective, a combination of elements that explained the prevalence of crime in these countries. This problem was also an obstacle to foreign investment and was thus a factor of underdevelopment. The UNODC report had been presented to the ministerial meeting held in Santo Domingo in February 2009, and the initiatives proposed had been ratified. In follow-up to the Political Declaration on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Terrorism and Other Serious Crime in the Caribbean, UNODC had decided to replicate in that region an initiative conducted in Asia to combat drug trafficking.

29. **Mr. Benwik** (Sweden) took the floor on behalf of the European Union. Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey (candidate countries), Albania, Montenegro and Serbia (stabilization and association process and potential candidate countries) as well as Norway, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Armenia and Georgia associated themselves with his statement. Pointing to the worldwide nature of organized crime, which had harmful effects in many areas, he said the European Union would continue its determined effort to fight organized crime, and impunity as well, by participating actively in all initiatives of the international community, seeking full enforcement of the pertinent international instruments to which most Member States were party, and supporting regional mechanisms of judicial and police cooperation.

30. The European Union was determined to eliminate human trafficking and to protect the victims of this modern form of slavery through stricter law enforcement and through attacking the deep economic and social causes of the problem. The European Union welcomed the many recent adherents to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially

Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and it encouraged States parties to collaborate more closely to enforce these two instruments by creating a solid and effective follow-up mechanism.

31. The European Union was also determined to combat corruption, which undermined institutions and impeded development. The United Nations Convention against Corruption illustrated the position of the international community in this area, and States parties should take the occasion of the Doha conference in November 2009 to prepare an effective, transparent follow-up mechanism that was open to all.

32. Highlighting the pressing need to combat terrorism in all its forms while respecting international law, the European Union stressed the key role of the United Nations in this regard and gave its unreserved support to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, calling upon all stakeholders including civil society and the private sector to devote themselves to implementing it. The European Union was providing active support to the Monitoring Team, which must remain the principal oversight body for coordinated and integrated application of the strategy. He commended the joint work of the Executive Directorate of the Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of UNODC and stressed the need to give that branch the resources necessary to carry out its mandate.

33. The European Union welcomed the adoption, during the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, of the Policy Declaration and Plan of Action on international cooperation, calling for a balanced and comprehensive approach to solving the world drug problem. He recalled that this struggle must be pursued with full respect for international law, the rule of law, and the principle of proportionality. The European Union had taken account of the objectives set by the United Nations in preparing its anti-drug action plan for 2009-2012, and comprehensive regional strategies were needed to combat drug consumption and trafficking.

34. Echoing the strong message contained in Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), the European Union was calling upon all Member States, in particular the producing countries, neighbouring countries and countries of transit, to step up international and regional cooperation to halt the diversion of chemical precursors, to redouble efforts to reduce narcotics supply and demand and the harmful consequences of drug abuse, and to facilitate access to treatment. It also welcomed the decisions taken recently on this matter by the Economic and Social Council.

35. Finally, the European Union was deeply concerned at the rising instances of piracy, hostage-taking – which it vigorously condemned – and armed robberies, in the face of which the international community must react appropriately.

36. **Mrs. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan), speaking on behalf of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), said that drug trafficking, which was closely linked to terrorism and to transnational organized crime, constituted not only a grave health threat but also a danger for the stability of States and of the international community as a whole. For this reason, the problem needed to be attacked from all angles, and it should be examined each year by the Third Committee. Member States of the CSTO shared the view of UNODC that narcotics should not be legalized and that, on the contrary, controls and measures to combat the illicit spread of narcotics in the world should be reinforced.

37. While heroin and cocaine production was declining, there were still some 250 million drug consumers around the world, or 6 per cent of the global population, and the proceeds of drug trafficking exceeded the GNP of more than 90 countries. Resort to synthetic drugs and injectable drugs was rising year by year. Central Asia was particularly threatened by the spread of heroin production in Afghanistan, which accounted for 90 per cent of world supply. Every year, 150 tons of heroin from that country transited through Central Asia towards Russia and Europe, posing a grave threat to peace and international security. The CSTO member States, which were neither producing nor destination countries, were seeing an upsurge in drug abuse.

38. Under these conditions, regional cooperation must continue as the most effective means of putting an end to narcotics trafficking. CSTO member States were working in this area under the leadership of the Coordinating Council of anti-drug-trafficking authorities. The prevention operation known as "Channel", which had been given permanent status in 2008, had been developed for purposes of eliminating the networks trafficking drugs and chemical precursors in Central Asia and in Russia. In 2008, with the support of a growing number of CSTO member States and the

Commonwealth of Independent States, this operation helped to reduce the volume of narcotics trafficking, to prevent delinquency and to improve the crime situation, and had resulted in the seizure of significant quantities of heroin, hashish and synthetic drugs. As well, the creation of a regional information and coordination centre for Central Asia, which would officially open its doors in late 2009, was one of the joint projects carried out under the Memorandum of Cooperation for controlling the illicit production and trafficking of narcotics, psychotropic substances and their precursors and against drug abuse, which States of the region and UNODC had signed in 1996. This centre would cooperate with the Office to analyse and share information on trafficking in narcotics originating in Afghanistan. As well, in 2008 and 2009 the Coordination Council had held several meetings and seminars in collaboration with the European Union and UNODC, and the competent bodies of CSTO member States had examined jointly the possibility of establishing a protective cordon around Afghanistan to ensure financial security and to combat drug production. At one of its sessions, the CSTO Permanent Council on Collective Security had adopted a series of joint measures to combat trafficking in narcotics, psychotropic substances and their chemical precursors, as part of the Paris-Moscow process, which would serve as the basis for an international strategy in this matter. To reinforce control over trafficking in narcotics coming from Afghanistan, it would be well to hold a third conference at the ministerial level at the end of 2010, under the Paris Pact Initiative.

39. It was also urgent to involve Afghanistan in controlling narcotics production on its territory and to cooperate with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to improve the effectiveness of action pursued in the region. There was also a need to improve mechanisms for coordinating the aid provided for controlling drug trafficking and for boosting the economy and reinforcing peace and security in Afghanistan. Welcoming the growing role that the International Security Assistance Force was playing in this area, CSTO member States would like to see the issue of chemical precursors in Afghanistan examined pursuant to Security Council resolution 1817 (2008).

40. United Nations Member States had been waging a long and courageous battle to eliminate not only the illicit supply of narcotics but also the demand for them, through international cooperation and national strategies, and they must persevere on this path. The CSTO was ready to cooperate with the United Nations and to make every effort to put an end to this world problem.

41. **Mr. Ashiki** (Japan) pointed out that technical progress was a mixed blessing, as it also promoted transnational organized crime, and in particular human trafficking, cybercrime, weapons and drugs trafficking, and corruption. The international community could only stamp out this scourge through concerted efforts involving the private sector, and by empowering all stakeholders. It must not be content with remedying the harmful effects of transnational organized crime, but must also foster sustainable development for fragile States in order to eliminate the underlying causes of crime and thus move closer to the common goal of human security.

42. In its efforts against transnational organized crime Japan was acting on three fronts. First, it was helping establish the necessary multilateral legal framework by encouraging universal adherence to the existing instruments and the adoption of new instruments. Second, it was offering legal aid to developing countries, particularly in Asia, hosting seminars on the application of counter-terrorism instruments and financing capacity-building activities by UNODC. Since the end of the Second World War, Japan had in this area pursued a policy of zero tolerance, as evident in its "Dame zettai" campaign, and the International Narcotics Control Board had praised its action. Japan would be happy to share with other countries the experience it had gained in taking a comprehensive approach that targeted both supply and demand, together with strict controls. It would continue to offer official development assistance for eradicating poverty, a factor for criminal activity, and reinforcing peace and security in the world. It was also fighting crime through such initiatives as the drug control and alternative development project, which had succeeded in wiping out poppy growing in the Wa region of Myanmar. Third, Japan was encouraging concerted action by Governments and international organizations, including UNODC. It thought it essential that the Third Committee should give careful attention to the questions referred to it and should formulate specific proposals, and it supported the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in March 2009 and the decision taken by the parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in October 2008 to

create a working group to oversee enforcement of the trafficking protocol. Finally, it hoped that the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption would result in creating an effective monitoring mechanism.

43. Japan thanked Brazil for hosting the twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, a forum that was contributing to the primacy of law and the adoption of a comprehensive approach to cooperation in this area. Japan sincerely hoped that the international community would seize that occasion to move forward towards reinforcing the legal framework and policing capacities, sustaining the development of developing countries, and promoting coordination among States and international organizations in order to rid the world of transnational organized crime.

44. **Mr. Tarar** (Pakistan) regretted that the considerable means offered by the information age were being diverted to criminal purposes, and he stressed that transnational organized crime was thriving because of the poverty of developing countries as well as the technical progress of rich countries. The drug trade, human trafficking and money-laundering were all fuelled by demand from rich countries, which was being supplied from developing countries. Given the characteristics of international crime, combating it required not only respect for the obligations imposed by international instruments and the forging of partnerships but also, at the local level, implementing alternative development activities and pursuing programmes to eradicate poverty.

45. Aware of its responsibilities in the face of the complex and multifaceted phenomenon of transnational crime, Pakistan considered that the world drug problem required stronger international cooperation, and it hoped that the Policy Declaration and Plan of Action would contribute to eliminating the drug problem. Pakistan had succeeded in halting the illicit growing of opium poppies, through a strategy based both on suppression and on alternative development. As a transit country, Pakistan had taken an active part in regional and international operations to control the flow of drugs from neighbouring regions and the flow of chemical precursors to those regions. Its drug control plan for 2009-2013 took account of the situation in the region and included measures to reduce supply and demand. The country was participating in international operations, such as the UNODC "Rainbow Strategy", as well as in regional operations such as the trilateral initiative between Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, which the Secretary-General had praised for its effectiveness.

46. With respect to human trafficking, Pakistan had promulgated a prevention ordinance, under which civil society was helping to rehabilitate the victims. A national plan of action would be adopted shortly and a counter-trafficking unit had been created within the Federal Investigation Agency. Pakistan had recently subscribed to the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and had promulgated an anti-money-laundering ordinance creating within the national bank a financial control unit to cooperate with other countries in combating money-laundering and terrorist financing.

47. With the assistance of the Asian Development Bank, the access to justice programme was helping reform the criminal justice system and to modernize the police forces. To control its borders more effectively, Pakistan was introducing the Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System, with assistance from the international community. The struggle against international crime required a comprehensive approach and a firm, long-term political and financial commitment, including capacity-building and appropriate financial and technical assistance.

48. **Mr. Sanchez** (Mexico) called on all Member States to redouble their efforts against trafficking, which the President of his country had called "the slavery of the twenty-first century". Pointing to some of the broad trends cited in the UNODC World Drug Report, he said that Mexico was engaged in an all-out struggle against criminal organizations, while seeking to protect the country's young people from the scourge of drug abuse. The money seized during police operations has been used to open 320 "New Life Centres" throughout the country, dedicated to preventing drug abuse.

49. International cooperation was essential for drug control, and Mexico was playing an active part in all regional and international initiatives against drugs and drug-related crime. On this point, he welcomed adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action against narcotics at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and recalled the draft resolution on combating the laundering of assets derived from drug trafficking and related offences that Mexico had presented on that occasion.

50. Mexico was firmly engaged in the battle against drugs, and would once again be presenting a resolution on "international cooperation to counter the world drug problem", which would focus this year on the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. Given the importance of those instruments for the international community, that resolution should receive unanimous support.

51. **Mr. Johnson** (United States of America) welcomed adoption of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action, which would assist progress in enforcing the three United Nations Conventions on Narcotics and Psychotropic Substances, and which should now be approved by resolution of the General Assembly.

52. Despite the instances of success that the United States had achieved in drug control, such as the decline in the consumption of illicit drugs and prescription medications among adolescents since 2002, the problem was still sizable and new measures were therefore planned, in particular a new drug control strategy more comprehensive than the old "war on drugs", which had shown its limitations, and a new focus on the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, which was a disease. The United States would continue its research to identify the most effective methods and to share them with the rest of the international community. Steps also had to be taken, however, to dismantle international criminal organizations, which were enriching themselves illegally and were threatening political stability, economic growth, and the rule of law in many countries. To this end, greater use would have to be made of the international instruments in place.

53. Progress had been made in combating drugs in the American hemisphere, particularly in Colombia and in Mexico. Accepting its responsibility to contribute to these efforts, the United States was working to strengthen collaboration with countries of the region, specifically within the Merida Initiative, in order to improve the prevention and treatment of drug abuse, to promote the rule of law, and to combat the criminal organizations that threatened societies.

54. On the other hand, in West Africa and in Afghanistan drug trafficking posed a threat to political stability and economic growth. The United States would continue to fund UNODC activities, particularly in Afghanistan, and it called on other countries to make off-budget contributions to the Office as well.

55. Member countries should cooperate more closely in the struggle against crime and corruption, and should ratify and enforce the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. As to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, it was entering into its application phase and the United States was looking forward to the conference to be held in Doha in November 2009, at which States parties would try to produce an effective, transparent and open monitoring mechanism. The United States intended this year to toughen its policy on admitting to its territory persons who paid or received bribes.

56. **Mr. Edrees** (Egypt) welcomed the technical assistance that UNODC was extending to developing countries to reinforce the capacity to counter devastating scourges such as terrorism, corruption and transnational organized crime. At this time of globalization, the international community must stand united against crime and at the same time combat the drug trade, human trafficking, money-laundering and terrorist financing.

57. It was true that the areas planted in conventional narcotic crops had declined but action now had to be taken against synthetic drugs, which technical progress had made easier to develop. This called for stronger international cooperation.

58. While the efforts of UNODC and its partners were laudable, the United Nations should work in closer partnership with Africa, and in particular with countries emerging from conflict, and also with the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The success of reconstruction efforts was heavily dependent on the assistance that United Nations agencies were supplying for the implementation of strategies and action plans against organized crime and trafficking, particularly as the persistence of this phenomenon was undermining efforts to consolidate peace and was at the same time facilitating the purchase of light weapons and supporting global terrorist networks. The importance of international cooperation against drug trafficking had also been reaffirmed by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session, during which it had prepared an international plan of action, one that Member States should strive to implement fully.

59. When it came to human trafficking and the sexual exploitation of women and children, the international community was just beginning to take action. Despite the many international instruments to combat this phenomenon – most recently the 2000 United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and

its protocols – there were more than 12 million people, in their majority women and children, who were victims of forced labour, while the profits generated by the sexual exploitation of women and children amounted to $28 billion. Human trafficking for sexual exploitation, forced labour or the sale of organs ranked third among the most profitable types of organized crime in the world, after weapons and narcotics trafficking.

60. Current measures were inadequate to combat human trafficking. Egypt, for its part, had launched a national campaign under the leadership of the First Lady to combat and prevent human trafficking, to protect the victims, and to bring the perpetrators to justice. The First Lady had also taken part in the World Forum to Fight Human Trafficking organized by UNODC in February 2008 and had headed a national campaign under the slogan "Let's put an end to trafficking!", under the auspices of the Suzanne Mubarak International Movement of Women for Peace, intended to reinforce the role of civil society and the private sector in combating this scourge, which afflicted the African continent in particular. At its summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, the African Union had adopted a resolution in this sense, thereby confirming the unity of the efforts deployed by Africa and the international community to formulate a world action plan. The Sharm el-Sheikh Summit Declaration adopted by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries in July 2009 gave clear expression to the determination of member countries to work for adoption of a world plan of action to eliminate human trafficking, recognizing that the current legal framework was inadequate. Egypt had no doubt that the General Assembly would do its all to support the preparation of such an instrument.

61. Egypt vigorously condemned terrorist attacks, whatever their motivation, and in particular the one committed in Pakistan on 6 October 2009 against a United Nations building, which had killed several staff members. Negotiations should be re-launched for a general convention on international terrorism and the definition of terrorist acts should be revised to recognize the differences between a terrorist act and a legitimate act committed in accordance with international humanitarian law by national liberation movements in the exercise of their right to self-determination. Adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represented a decisive milestone, placing as it did greater stress on the need to examine the existing framework for international cooperation. The time had come to organize an international conference without delay, under United Nations auspices, in order to formulate a definition of terrorism and on that basis to negotiate a global convention on terrorism.

62. **Mrs. Kolontai** (Belarus) said the international community must show determination in meeting the many challenges threatening the security of States and the world, and this could be done only through political partnership. Governments, international organizations and civil society should pool their efforts to curb human trafficking, which was a true attack on human dignity. It was laudable that the United Nations was paying greater attention to this question, and UNDP in particular, which in 2009 for the first time had devoted a chapter of its Human Development Report to human trafficking; and of course UNODC had published the 2009 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons.

63. In 2006 and in 2008 Belarus had submitted a draft resolution on improving coordination against human trafficking, and calling for creation of a partnership against trafficking and other contemporary forms of slavery, and it intended to go further in 2009 by presenting a new draft resolution setting out specific measures for institutionalizing that partnership.

64. As to preparation of the world plan of action against trafficking, all United Nations Member States should participate actively in the work. Human trafficking would in this way be more severely suppressed, something that was essential when one recognized that 20 per cent of its victims were children.

65. **Mr. Liu** (China) said that the international community had continued to make progress in 2009 in preventing and combating transnational crime. The United Nations Conventions against Transnational Organized Crime and against Corruption and the three conventions of 1961, 1971 and 1988 on narcotics and psychotropic substances had certainly laid the basis for global governance, but international terrorism, transnational organized crime and the production and trafficking of drugs, all of which were inextricably linked, were thriving unabated. To prevent and combat them effectively, international cooperation must be reinforced in the areas of extradition, legal and technical assistance, and recovery of assets, for example, while respecting the principles of sovereignty, equality and mutual interest. In this regard China supported the work of UNODC and the Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

66. China had always been conscientious in fulfilling its obligations under the conventions against transnational organized crime and corruption. It had taken legislative, executive and judicial measures and had amended its Criminal Code to reinforce the fight against corruption and human trafficking; it had also signed 106 treaties of legal assistance

67. China was firmly opposed to the illegal trade in small arms and light weapons: it had strict controls on their export and was prepared to play a more active role regionally and internationally to put an end to the traffic.

68. When it came to narcotics control, the international community had made progress but there were still great obstacles to be overcome. Despite the drop in global output of cocaine and heroin and the shrinking market for cannabis and opium, the production, trafficking and consumption of new drugs showed no signs of declining, the diversion of chemical precursors remained a cause of concern, funds for financing alternative development activities were inadequate, and youth remained in thrall to drug abuse. International cooperation was of the essence here. In this regard, China supported the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, and it welcomed the work done by UNODC and the International Narcotics Control Bureau. China applied a total ban on drugs and had adopted a comprehensive and integrated national strategy. It was controlling chemical precursors strictly and taking resolute steps to combat trafficking in those substances. Finally, it attached great importance to educating young people and adolescents to prevent drug abuse.

69. China was actively involved in various international and regional mechanisms to control drugs and combat drug-related offences. It had successfully helped neighbouring countries to choose substitute crops for opium, and was also cooperating tirelessly with the United States and with European countries with a view to eliminating the scourge of narcotics.

70. **Mr. Thaung Tun** (Myanmar) welcomed the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and pointed out that, while drug control was by no means a new issue, the scourge of narcotics was now making itself felt around the planet. Banning the marketing of a given drug, as had been done in recent decades, served only to shift the problem to other substances. In addition to considering supply and demand, questions of health and the promotion of viable means of livelihood also had to be taken into account. The struggle against drugs would not be won without the political will to attack the problem and without recognition by States that they had an interest in helping each other.

71. Myanmar was hoping to eliminate illicit drugs from its territory by the year 2014, through a 15-year plan based on two strategies that involved anti-narcotics campaigns and eradicating opium poppy crops in border areas while offering producers other means of livelihood and raising living standards. Considerable funds had already been committed to infrastructure improvements to this end, and Myanmar had received valuable assistance from the United Nations and other international players. At the same time, Myanmar had reinforced its legislation and its legal capacities and had in this way succeeded in cutting annual opium production substantially and in eliminating opium poppy growing in some parts of the country. New tendencies in the consumption of illicit drugs and psychotropic substances were emerging among young people, however. Myanmar was well aware of the threat posed by stimulants of the amphetamine type. It did not produce the chemical precursors used to make these synthetic drugs, and it was cooperating closely with neighbouring countries to control those substances and keep them out of its territory. The security forces of Myanmar were also doing effective work in this field.

72. Yet despite all the progress made, greater efforts would be needed to rid the world of this scourge and to accompany national efforts by regional and international cooperation.

73. **Mr. Kleib** (Indonesia) welcomed the growing attention that was being paid to new forms of crime such as trafficking in forest products, including lumber, wild species and other biological forest resources, which not only affected individuals but also undermined the ecosystem. Hailing the decision taken in 2008 by the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime to examine this question at its 2010 session, he said that the twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice would provide the opportunity to consolidate the strategy for combating new forms of crime, and declared that Indonesia supported the efforts to prepare two United Nations conventions, one against cybercrime and the other against money-laundering.

74. Combating corruption remained a high priority for Indonesia, which had participated voluntarily in a pilot programme to examine implementation of the United Nations convention on this matter. Indonesia had also adopted a national plan of action against corruption, including both preventive and repressive measures. Finally, it was cooperating closely with other countries to facilitate the return of stolen assets to their countries of origin under the StAR initiative.

75. With respect to human trafficking, Indonesia was firmly opposed to it and was calling for action to clamp down on international trafficking rings and to guarantee protection for victims. Together with Australia, Indonesia had co-chaired the third regional ministerial conference on people smuggling, trafficking in persons and related transnational crime, known as the Bali Process.

76. On the counterterrorism front, Indonesia had been hard hit by this scourge and believed that its root causes must be attacked, while ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law. It would continue to promote moderation and tolerance, while at the same time stepping up enforcement measures. Because terrorism recognized no borders, Indonesia was contributing to a number of regional programmes to strengthen capacities and share information through the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, in close partnership with the Australian Government.

77. Finally, when it came to international drug control, Indonesia welcomed the Political Declaration and Plan of Action adopted at the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. Indonesia was determined to help strengthen international cooperation and was convinced that, if they were to be effective, the measures adopted must take into account both supply and demand, and that alternative development activities would have to be proposed for combating drugs effectively. International cooperation and the sharing of responsibilities would be needed to guarantee success in these actions.

The meeting rose at 6.15 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/64/SR.6

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
24 December 2009
English
Original: French

Third Committee

Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 8 October 2009, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Mr. Rastam (Vice-Chairperson) ..... (Malaysia)

Contents

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*)

Agenda item 105: International drug control (*continued*)

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09-54847 (E)

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In the absence of Mr. Penke (Latvia), Mr. Rastam (Malaysia), Vice-Chairperson, took the chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/64/99, 121, 123 and 130, and A/64/227-S/2009/402; A/C.3/64/L.2)

Agenda item 105: International drug control (*continued*) (A/64/92-E/2009/98 and A/64/120)

1. **Mr. Wolfe** (Jamaica), speaking on behalf of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), warmly welcomed the recommendations made by the Secretary-General in his report (A/64/123) and joined the call for strengthening of the technical cooperation capacity of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in order to ensure that its technical assistance activities in the field were properly brought into the mainstream of the respective programmes.

2. The problems of drugs and crime were of major concern to the Caribbean region, whose geographical location made it a bridge between the major producers of narcotics and their consumers. The international drug trade was so inextricably linked to organized crime, in particular transnational organized crime, that the Heads of State of the region had decided to add a fourth pillar — security — to the Treaty of Chaguaramas, by which CARICOM had been established.

3. The countries of the region had developed various mechanisms to deal with those issues at various levels: the Council of Ministers Responsible for National Security and Law Enforcement; the Regional Task Force on Crime and Security; the CARICOM Social and Development Crime Prevention Action Plan 2009-2013, developed jointly by CARICOM and UNODC; and the Political Declaration on Combating Illicit Drug Trafficking, Organized Crime, Terrorism and Other Serious Crime in the Caribbean, adopted at the closing of a ministerial conference, which provided for the creation of a consultative mechanism and an Internet-based automated donor response database.

4. CARICOM was supportive of the Political Declaration and Action Plan adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs which aimed at enhancing international cooperation in the fight against drugs and was pleased that drugs control was placed in the context of security, health and development.

5. The problem of trafficking in persons had been the subject of high-level international meetings. In collaboration with the International Organization for Migration, CARICOM had drawn up regional guidelines to counter trafficking. Some member States of the region had already enacted legislation on trafficking in persons. CARICOM recommended that multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation should be pursued and that the focus should be on capacity-building and knowledge sharing.

6. It was important that the efforts of member States should be recognized and that unilaterally determined standards should not be used as a benchmark for assessing progress made at the national level.

7. The practice of relocating criminal offenders from developed countries to developing countries was destabilizing for societies and dangerous in a world without borders, in which security problems demanded joint responses.

8. Cybercrime was an emerging problem for the region and required a multisectoral response.

9. The transnational nature of security threats made cooperation with neighbouring States and partnerships paramount in addressing them. In that connection, the recent expert-level dialogue recently undertaken between CARICOM and the United States of America had made it possible to define areas for cooperation (capacity-building, police training, improvement of rehabilitation programmes, and so on).

10. CARICOM, deeply affected by transnational crime and international drug trafficking, looked forward to a Caribbean-based United Nations office on drugs and crime in the very near future. Such an office would play a critical role in coordinating regional activities and would work in cooperation with national focal points.

11. **Mr. Mokin** (Russian Federation) stated that there was a need to strengthen the coordinating role of the United Nations and the capacities of the specialized agencies and programmes in order to organize effectively the actions undertaken by the international community against transnational organized crime and drug trafficking.

12. In that respect, the Russian Federation was in favour of the implementation of the global strategy to combat crime recommended by the Secretary-General in his report (A/64/123), which would involve defining priorities — combating corruption, terrorism,

cybercrime, fraud or identity theft, for example — and requesting certain United Nations bodies, in particular the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to take appropriate action.

13. It was important in particular to strengthen the cooperation mechanisms based on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto and on the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

14. The Russian Federation took an active part in the work of the conferences of States parties to those conventions and in the preparations for the third session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, which would deal in particular with the review of the implementation of the Convention, asset recovery and technical assistance.

15. At the national level, on 25 December 2008 the Russian Federation had adopted a federal law on combating corruption. To that end and with a view to ratifying the convention, it had reviewed its legislation and in particular strengthened the monitoring of incomes and assets of municipal and government officials, and had put in place a national anti-corruption action plan.

16. Given the scale of the problems facing the international community owing to crime, the Russian Federation considered that it was essential to act under the leadership of the United Nations in that area and to ensure that such action was not overtaken by other priorities of the Organization.

17. The Russian Federation was in favour of creating a political and legal space to combat crime, developing intergovernmental cooperation in the area of law enforcement and harmonizing national procedures and practices for maintaining law and order.

18. With regard to international drug control, the position of the Russian Federation was in line with that of the Collective Security Treaty Organization. The fight against drugs, in particular in Afghanistan — which was still the leading producer worldwide of opiates — was showing mixed outcomes. The most recent UNODC report was largely dominated by negative trends: the development and growing coordination of narcotics producers and small terrorist groups.

19. In order to stimulate international cooperation in combating drugs in Afghanistan, there was a need to carry out the measures envisaged in the context of the Paris-Moscow process, under the leadership of the United Nations and to develop and amplify them in line with the evolving situation in Afghanistan and its surroundings. The third ministerial conference planned for the end of 2010 should be useful in that regard. The first step was to create safe areas around Afghanistan. In the Declaration and Action Plan adopted at the end of its special conference on Afghanistan, held the previous March, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization had called for strengthening of international cooperation in that area.

20. The United Nations conventions dealing with combating drugs constituted a solid basis both for adopting measures at the national level and for organizing international cooperation. It was also encouraging to see that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs did not recommend, in the measures that it proposed, recourse to dubious methods (for example that of "harm reduction") which, while they might be put into operation in certain countries or on an exceptional basis, should not be considered as global norms validated by the United Nations.

21. **Mr. Al-Nasser** (Qatar) expressed the view that the growth of crime, trafficking in persons and administrative and financial corruption were impeding the economic and social development that was needed in order to battle poverty, hunger and ignorance.

22. At the national level, Qatar had taken important administrative and legislative measures to combat trafficking in persons. In particular, in 2005 it had adopted Act No. 8 creating the Qatar Office for Combating Trafficking in Persons. It had also reviewed the legislation in force in order to adapt it to international norms.

23. On the international level, it had acceded to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. In coordination with UNODC, Qatar was establishing a science-based capacity-building project adapted to the current and future needs of the Arab countries.

24. Nevertheless, it would be necessary to strengthen yet further collective action to put an end to that scourge. Within the context of the interactive thematic dialogue of the United Nations General Assembly which had taken place on 13 May 2009, some States had

considered the possibility of drawing up a global plan of action to prevent trafficking in persons. Qatar saw that as a project with many different aspects and hoped that the action would be pursued on a wider scale.

25. Qatar had ratified the United Nations Convention against Corruption in order to participate actively in international action to battle administrative and financial corruption. At the national level, it had enacted laws, creating, inter alia, a National Committee for Integrity and Transparency.

26. Qatar urged the international community to participate in great numbers in two forthcoming events. From 9 to 13 November 2009, participants in the third session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption would consider the progress made in that area, and on 7 and 8 November 2009, the sixth session of the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity would tackle the role of the private and public sectors in battling corruption.

27. Qatar was determined to pursue its efforts to strengthen the means of cooperating with international bodies and to establish a climate of justice and security.

28. **Ms. Blum** (Colombia) recalled that in its 2009 report, UNODC had noted an encouraging decrease in the production of cocaine and heroin worldwide and stressed the correlation between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime.

29. Colombia had been struggling for more than 30 years against the scourge of drugs. In order to ensure the security, prosperity and social cohesion of its citizens, it was implementing a global strategy aimed at reducing both drug supply and drug demand and combating the criminal behaviour that the phenomenon caused.

30. In 2008, Colombian national institutions had achieved numerous successes in the areas of public health, and the well-being and safety of society as a whole. The eradication of illicit coca crops (by spraying from the air or by manual eradication) had made it possible to reduce the areas cultivated by 18 per cent and cocaine production by 28 per cent, thereby moving Colombia closer to the objective of 50 per cent that it had set for itself in 2001.

31. The activities of crop substitution, another pillar of Colombia's anti-drug strategy, provided a way of ensuring the viability of the areas cleared of illicit crops. The Government intended to acquire 64,000 hectares of land to be provided to the families of forest-dwellers living in strategic ecosystems.

32. In order to preserve the environment and ensure the long-term economic and social development of the rural populations that had given up illicit crops, the donor countries must contribute more to crop substitution activities, not only by granting financial and technical assistance but also by facilitating the marketing of the products which resulted from those activities.

33. International cooperation, which was based on the principle of shared responsibility, took the form of coordinating activities, providing technical and financial assistance, exchanging information and combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

34. The drugs problem was a worldwide phenomenon which threatened the international community as a whole. Since transnational crime was becoming better and better organized, the growing, production, trafficking and consumption of drugs had extended to a growing number of countries. In order to destabilize that system, the international community needed to attack every link in the chain, preventing criminal networks from carrying out their illegal activities (such as drug and weapon trafficking, diversion of precursors, or money-laundering).

35. Colombia was sharing the experience and skills that it had acquired over the years, within the context of cooperation programmes. It was responding to requests for training and technical assistance that it received from countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and West Africa, and Asia. It was thus participating actively in the initiative of cooperation for the exchange of information between the drug law enforcement forces of Latin America and West Africa, which was intended to eliminate the cocaine traffic between Latin America and the Caribbean and Europe, through Africa.

36. **Mr. Hassan** (Sudan) welcomed the assistance that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) was providing to the developing countries. He commended the work being undertaken in Africa by the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders despite its limited resources and was pleased that the United Nations was helping the Institute to develop. The African continent needed greater support from the United Nations for its

programmes to prevent crime in any form and combat trafficking in drugs and persons.

37. At the regional level, Sudan played a leading role in the fight against transnational crime. In cooperation with nine neighbouring countries, it was attempting to consolidate peace in certain regions that were prey to severe instability. It was a member of numerous regional and international organizations and in that connection welcomed the Sharm el-Sheikh declaration adopted at the end of the fifteenth Summit of the Non-Aligned Movement, in June 2009, by which the Movement had undertaken to develop an international plan to combat trafficking in persons.

38. Sudan intended to implement national and regional anti-crime instruments and had already adapted its national legislation three times to international standards.

39. Sudan had always been a regional centre for the holding of conferences, seminars and workshops. It had been entrusted with the chairmanship of the meetings of the Central and East Africa conference held in Djibouti at the beginning of October. It had signed bilateral agreements with more than 21 countries — African, Arab and others — in the fields of training, cooperation on security and information-sharing.

40. Sudan was pleased with the positive results of the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 1995, but considered them insufficient. Since the elimination of crime was an international objective, international cooperation was an essential condition to be able to carry out the UNODC strategy for the period 2008-2011. In order to fight crime and corruption, it was necessary to take account of economic realities and the financial crisis and its devastating consequences for developing countries. The developed countries must help the latter to create jobs and attain the Millennium Development Goals, so as to establish an international order in which wealth was distributed equitably.

41. It could not be denied that Sudan was contributing to the fight against terrorism. It reiterated its determination to cooperate with those who sincerely wished to combat terrorism. The United Nations must mobilize the international community in the fight against terrorism in order to ensure that that effort was not exploited for political ends, in the service of hidden objectives. Sudan had requested that the international community should define terrorism as an international offence and adopt instruments which could constitute the framework for an international strategy, in the interests of all, but its request had so far not met with a response. Sudan urged the United Nations to call on Governments and international organizations to cooperate in order to create the necessary mechanisms for that purpose.

42. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) reported that his country, which bordered on the largest producer of cocaine in the world, was ranked fourth worldwide for seizures of narcotics, as a result of energetic anti-trafficking measures such as the placement of 10 radar installations to detect illegal flights and the use of body scanners at airports. Furthermore, an inexpensive drug detection test, developed by Venezuelan scientists, had effectively replaced the narcotics test, which had been much more costly. The country had also installed one of the largest drug incineration facilities in the world.

43. The country's efforts had borne fruit with the arrest of a number of major drug lords, numbering 14 in 2008 and 10 in 2009, who had immediately been extradited and handed over to the judicial authorities of their own countries, in most cases the United States of America and Colombia. That action had resulted in the holding in Venezuela of the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and Caribbean Region, which had brought together representatives of 77 countries and nine international organizations, from 28 September to 2 October 2009. At the Meeting, the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean had undertaken to cooperate with the countries of West Africa in combating drug trafficking.

44. He recalled the principle of the shared responsibility of the consuming and the producing countries and stressed that Venezuela's successes in combating drugs had required neither the presence of foreign troops on its soil nor any other loss of sovereignty.

45. **Ms. Pérez Álvarez** (Cuba) said that fighting crime required above all combating underdevelopment and inequality, which offered a fertile breeding ground for crime. With the worldwide economic and financial crisis having further aggravated those factors, transnational crime was organizing itself into all-powerful multinationals. Since no country could deal

with that on its own, there was a need to strengthen international cooperation.

46. Provided that the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity were respected, Cuba was always ready to collaborate with regional and international partners in the fight against drug trafficking, but stressed that the main responsibility fell upon the major centres of consumption. There must be no double standards in combating crime, nor must countries act hypocritically in an attempt to demonize certain States. The United States of America, for example, claimed to play a leading role in combating trafficking in migrants, but its 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act was encouraging illegal emigration from Cuba. That country also presented itself as the champion of the fight against terrorism but granted immunity to notorious terrorists such as Luis Posada Carriles. Cuba had, however, frequently reiterated its offer to enter into dialogue with the United States with a view to cooperating against drug trafficking, terrorism and human trafficking.

47. Despite the embargo imposed by the United States, Cuba had registered numerous successes in the fight against crime and drugs and intended to continue cooperating actively with the United Nations in that area, in particular as part of the preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, to be held in Brazil in 2010.

48. **Mr. Merabet** (Algeria) recalled the devastating effects on public health of drug production and trafficking, a market estimated at about $320 billion a year. He noted that injectable drugs, for example, were the cause of 10 per cent of new cases of HIV/AIDS and stressed the importance of the objectives defined in the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction, which had emanated from the twentieth special session of the General Assembly, those principles being based on the reduction of drug supply and demand together with the strengthening of international cooperation. Supply reduction entailed the promotion of alternative development policies even if there were actually no reliable data or evaluations regarding the real effectiveness of programmes undertaken to that end. Demand reduction was equally necessary, and for that reason one could not but deplore the policies of tolerance adopted by certain developed countries, notably with regard to cannabis, since such policies were likely to stimulate production in the developing countries.

49. There was a need to combat, in a simultaneous, coordinated and resolute manner, the various scourges represented by the drug trade and trafficking in persons and human organs, corruption and terrorism, which drew on the same sources of funding and whose linkages were well-known. Algeria, which had ratified the three relevant United Nations conventions, against illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, against corruption and against transnational organized crime, and was incorporating their principles and commitments into its national legislation, fully accepted its responsibility as a transit country for drug trafficking and supported the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

50. **Mr. Emadi** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that the statistics relating to drug trafficking were not very promising, despite the efforts of various States and international organizations. Afghan opiate production had greatly expanded and opiate purity had increased in recent years, the slight decline in 2008 being due to drought and to the replacement of poppies by cannabis. The presence of Western troops, far from helping to solve the country's deep-rooted problems, had made the situation worse.

51. The Islamic Republic of Iran ranked first worldwide in terms of seizures of opiates, having accounted for 80 per cent of total seizures, and was collaborating actively with more than 30 countries, notably under the umbrella of the Economic Cooperation Organization, as well as with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. A joint anti-drug pilot operation launched in March 2009 by his country, Afghanistan and Pakistan had resulted in seizures and the dismantling of networks. The Islamic Republic of Iran had paid a heavy price in the fight against drug trafficking, sacrificing thousands of troops from its security forces, 30,000 of them still mobilized along the borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan. Given that the country received very little assistance in this area, any additional and supplementary help would be welcome.

52. **Mr. Wee Choo Keong** (Malaysia) explained that, in the fight against transnational crime, bilateral contacts between law enforcement services remained the most effective way of sharing information. Malaysia was among the 149 countries that were party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, whose Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children it had recently ratified. In that area, it was to be hoped

that the General Assembly would soon succeed in setting up a global plan of action, with a focus not only on suppression but also on the development and security problems that made certain people vulnerable.

53. The increased attention brought to bear by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the problem of piracy was greatly to be welcomed.

54. In the area of drugs, the increased consumption of synthetic stimulants, in particular by young Asian people, remained a matter for concern. The international effort to stem the supply of and demand for drugs must include assistance for the creation of other sources of income in the producer countries. While taking stringent enforcement measures, which had proved effective against drug trafficking, Malaysia was not ignoring the public health dimension, in particular devoting 60 per cent of its budget for combating HIV/AIDS to harm-reduction programmes for injectable-drug users.

55. **Mr. Kapambwe** (Zambia), speaking on behalf of the Southern African Development Community (SADC), stressed that the Community was actively combating transnational crime by organizing joint operations in particular against vehicle theft, drug trafficking or arms smuggling. Recognizing the harmful effects of corruption on economic development and on governance, SADC had adopted a protocol on combating the scourge. At a ministerial meeting held in May 2009, it had also drawn up a strategic Plan of Action on Combating Trafficking in Persons. It was to be hoped that the activities under way would soon lead to the establishment of a United Nations global action plan in that area.

56. SADC had designed awareness-raising programmes aimed at young people and had taken measures to combat trafficking, but there was a greater need than ever for technical assistance from international partners.

57. **Mr. Koh** Boon Piau (Singapore), drawing attention to the terrible scourge of drug addiction and the disastrous consequences that it had on the lives of the addicts themselves, their families and society at large, told the story of a woman married to a drug addict and trafficker, who had suffered, together with her children, the consequences of his activities.

58. Millions of such stories were currently being repeated around the world. Drug addiction continued to cause havoc within communities and to represent a huge drain on resources. Drug use among young people, especially of amphetamine-type stimulants, was increasing at an alarming rate, and that peril must absolutely not be ignored.

59. Singapore was not immune to the impact of illegal drug use and trafficking, and had therefore adopted an integrated, multi-pronged anti-drug strategy, combining strict laws, vigorous enforcement, preventive education, rehabilitation and aftercare as well as community involvement. In consequence, 11 international drug syndicates had been dismantled in 2009, bringing about a 13 per cent fall in the number of drug abuse cases in the first half of the year, by comparison with the same period a year earlier. Part of the credit for that success must be attributed to cooperation with regional and international authorities.

60. In tandem with strict enforcement measures, the authorities had also focused their efforts on a preventive education programme targeting schools and youth groups. Community and corporate partners, inter alia, organs of the press, had joined the authorities to increase public awareness of the perils of drug abuse.

61. In terms of rehabilitation and aftercare, Singapore continued to adopt a differentiated approach towards drug abusers. First- and second-time offenders were sent to rehabilitation centres where the procedures were centred around abstinence, religious and social counselling, work, vocational training and education. Such offenders did not receive a criminal record. Third-time and subsequent offenders, on the other hand, were viewed as recalcitrant drug abusers and subjected to a strict penal regime.

62. The social reintegration of drug abusers accounted for a large part of the efforts deployed, and for considerable quantities of resources. A substantial part of the support in the pre-release and aftercare phases, in particular with regard to obtaining paid employment or the provision of counselling, was provided by community partners. Support given to abusers' family members was also a not insignificant component.

63. Singapore intended to remain a committed partner in the fight against drug trafficking and abuse and would continue to adapt its national strategy to improve its effectiveness, while cooperating with international partners to rid current and future generations of a terrible scourge.

64. **Mr. AlShahail** (Saudi Arabia) said that the Saudi delegation welcomed the Secretary-General's reports

on crime prevention, criminal justice and international drug control and also welcomed the role played by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and in particular the efforts made in the area of technical cooperation and improvement of coordination in the fight against trafficking in persons. Saudi Arabia, which endorsed and remained committed to that body's continued efforts, reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

65. At the international level, Saudi Arabia was working, in various ways, to strengthen its cooperation with the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme.

66. At the national level, considerable progress had been made in recent years in the area of criminal justice, in particular with regard to the principles of equality, independence of the justice system, legality and personalization of penalties and non-retroactivity of criminal law.

67. In 2009, Saudi Arabia had launched an ambitious strategic plan to develop the justice sector, which would be spread over the next 20 years and implemented in several stages. The plan would deal with both infrastructures and mechanisms for the administration of justice and the utilization of human resources, with the objective of improving the functioning of the sector as a whole.

68. At the beginning of February 2009, on the occasion of the fortieth session of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice and the twentieth session of the Council, both of which had taken place in Beirut, experts from Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries had considered various issues, notably ways to facilitate procedures for the extradition of criminals and combating transnational organized crime.

69. The Saudi Ministry of Justice had recently begun working on setting up a specialized criminal court to try persons linked to Al-Qaeda and accused of attacking the security of the State.

70. The Saudi delegation felt firmly that combating crime and improving criminal justice systems were issues which fell under communal responsibility and that therefore they should enjoy the widest possible international collaboration. On the basis of that conviction, Saudi Arabia had ratified the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. It was that same conviction that had led Saudi Arabia to expend considerable efforts to develop training in the surveillance, investigation and combating of economic crimes.

71. The Saudi delegation reaffirmed that its country would not spare any effort to promote criminal justice, both nationally and internationally.

72. **Ms. Halabi** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that drug trafficking, as one of the major problems of contemporary society, required increased attention on the part of the international community.

73. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to most of the international instruments for combating crime. In 2009, it had ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two protocols thereto: the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. It was contributing to international action being taken to combat crime and had consequently signed several bilateral and multilateral agreements, in particular with regard to the extradition of criminals.

74. Trafficking in persons was another transnational phenomenon of particular concern. The Syrian Arab Republic was fighting determinedly against trafficking in migrants and other human beings. Her country was aware that its geographical situation made it a transit country and had therefore considerably reinforced surveillance on its borders, which had enabled it, with assistance from France, Germany and Italy in particular, to dismantle several clandestine immigration networks.

75. A draft law on combating trafficking in persons had been drawn up in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme. A reception centre for victims of trafficking had been opened in Damascus, and a second centre would soon be opened in Aleppo, with assistance from the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and support from the European Union.

76. At the national level the Syrian Government was redoubling its efforts in the fight against drug

trafficking. Awareness-raising campaigns aimed at children and young people were being implemented, and measures were being taken to reduce the demand for narcotics.

77. The Syrian Arab Republic was a party to the international drug-control conventions. It had signed bilateral agreements with Cyprus, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Turkey with a view to sharing any and all information on drug trafficking, and it was open to all forms of cooperation in that area, with all parties concerned. Her country was already cooperating closely with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and welcomed the technical support that its Regional Office for the Middle East was providing to the countries of the region. It was hoped that the Office would be provided with additional resources.

78. The Syrian Arab Republic called for the development, under the leadership of the United Nations, of an international programme of work aimed at combating trafficking in persons, which should address the underlying causes of the phenomenon and have clear objectives.

79. The Syrian Arab Republic felt firmly that, with the requisite political will, the efforts being made by the United Nations and its Member States to combat transnational organized crime and drug trafficking would be crowned with success.

80. **Ms. Rubiales de Chamorro** (Nicaragua) said that her country reiterated its unswerving attachment to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, and that in that context it had modified its domestic legislation to align it with those instruments, had drawn up national plans to give effect to the legislation and had taken part in the development and coordination of regional plans. Drug abuse, the production of and trafficking in narcotics, transnational organized crime, terrorism and its financing, and corruption had been considered to be threats to security and to the political, economic and social development of the peoples of Central America at the Ministerial Conference on Illicit Drug Trafficking, Transnational Organized Crime and Terrorism as Challenges for Security and Development in Central America, which had been held in June 2009 and had concluded with the adoption of the Political Declaration bearing the same name.

81. In addition, the subregion had a strategy for security in Central America and Mexico, including an action plan which was supported by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and whose implementation would require additional resources, which the international community was urged to help mobilize.

82. Transnational organized crime and drug abuse were worldwide scourges which required solutions based on coordinated multilateral actions enshrined in a well-established international legal framework.

83. Nicaragua was firmly opposed to the intention of certain Member States to have recourse to non-peaceful means, such as the establishment of military bases, to combat drugs. That type of measure, far from being a solution, threatened peace and security in the region.

84. Nicaragua was neither a drug-producing country nor a drug-consuming one, but was, owing to its geographical position, a transit country which found itself obliged to devote some of its limited national resources, which could have helped to solve domestic problems, to combating transnational crime. Her country therefore called on the international community to ensure that the principle of shared but differentiated responsibility was implemented through mobilization of resources. At the same time, it saluted the work carried out by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the support which it was giving to Nicaragua and the region as part of the fight against transnational organized crime.

85. All agreed that trafficking in persons was one of the most abominable of contemporary crimes. Nicaragua was among the countries supporting the preparation of a global plan of action against trafficking in persons, based on consensus and the principle of shared responsibility. Far from being redundant, such a plan would make it possible to facilitate the use of existing international instruments and mechanisms, promote coordination and formulate operational plans incorporating indicators for evaluating progress made and obstacles encountered at the national, regional and international level. Not only must such a plan be based on human rights and guarantee complete protection for victims, it must also attack the evil at its root, in other words target the demand that was leading to exploitation.

86. As part of the major efforts that it was making to combat trafficking in persons, Nicaragua had created a national coalition made up of 95 public bodies, civil

society entities and international cooperation agencies and had established a legal framework that penalized that crime in accordance with the provisions of article 182 of the new Criminal Code.

87. Nicaragua had also ratified the instruments providing international protection for human rights, such as the International Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children. It was also preparing a draft bill which would enable it to enhance the prevention of activities related to organized crime and trafficking in persons, improve investigations into such matters, prosecute those responsible more effectively and better administer the goods seized, confiscated or abandoned. Alone in the region, Nicaragua was currently working on drawing up the second geographical and social map of the networks for trafficking in persons, covering the whole country.

88. Nicaragua would continue to spare no effort to fight against those crimes, relying on a police force whose integrity and determination to overcome organized crime in Nicaragua, despite the modest resources available, had been recognized by other countries of the region. Nicaragua thanked the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) for its technical support.

89. **Mr. Solón-Romero** (Plurinational State of Bolivia) said that his country was resolutely engaged in the fight against the global scourges represented by drugs, narcotics trafficking and organized crime. Indeed, his country had been congratulated for the efforts that it had made in those areas at the Nineteenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Latin American and Caribbean Region, held in Venezuela from 28 September to 2 October 2009. The June 2009 report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime on the control of coca crops on Bolivian territory also indicated that the interdiction measures taken by the Bolivian Government were worthy of praise.

90. Since President Evo Morales had taken office, operations to combat drug trafficking had multiplied and had resulted in the seizure of major quantities of cocaine, the confiscation of chemicals intended for the manufacture of drugs, and the destruction of crystallization laboratories and macerating tanks.

91. The expulsion from the country of the United States Drug Enforcement Agency at the end of 2008 owing to its interference in domestic political affairs had had no negative effect on the fight against drug trafficking and seizures of narcotics. The confiscation of chemicals and the destruction of laboratories had in fact increased in 2009.

92. However, that had not prevented the United States Government from suspending his country's trade preferences under the Andean Trade Preference Act, a law which had been an expression of the principle of shared responsibility for combating drugs, and from revoking its certification.

93. The Plurinational State of Bolivia denounced the blackmail and politically motivated disciplinary sanctions by the United States. The UNODC Regional Office was currently being reinstalled in Bolivia, and the country was striving to promote bilateral, regional and worldwide cooperation in order to contribute, on the basis of the principle of shared responsibility, with complete transparency and without any interference in domestic political matters, to ridding humanity of the scourge of narcotics.

94. As part of its strategy to conduct the fight against drug trafficking on a regional and multilateral basis, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had promoted the creation, within the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) of the South American Council to Combat Drugs Trafficking, and had concluded bilateral interdiction agreements with Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay, which in particular had made it possible to dismantle sophisticated recycling laboratories for precursors intended for the crystallization of cocaine.

95. In cooperation with the coca producers, the Plurinational State of Bolivia had succeeded in reducing the area used for coca cultivation by more than 5,000 hectares per year, without violence and without violating human rights, unlike what had happened in the past. The country's objective was to reduce that area by more than 6,000 hectares in 2009.

96. According to the 2008 UNODC report, the amount of coca produced in Bolivia represented only 18 per cent of the worldwide production quantity, and the maximum potential production of cocaine in Bolivia was 13 per cent of the world total. However, that figure would go down once a detailed study of coca had been completed which would determine the

quantity of coca leaves that were used in traditional consumption in the country.

97. On 12 March 2009, President Evo Morales had presented a draft amendment to article 49 of the 1961 Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs to decriminalize the chewing of coca leaf, which was prohibited under the Convention according to cultural prejudices which had no scientific basis.

98. Chewing coca leaf was an ancestral custom practised for thousands of years by the indigenous people of the Andes, one which went back at least to the third millennium BC and was intimately related to the region's history and cultural identity. Chewing coca leaf in its natural state caused no harm to human health and induced neither disorders nor addiction.

99. The Plurinational State of Bolivia proposed that the UNODC reports on the eradication of excess and illegal coca crops should also indicate the eradication methods used. There was a great difference between reducing the growing of coca in an organized manner and with respect for human rights and doing so through recourse to violence, the use of toxic agricultural chemicals and the installation of military bases.

100. In the 21st century, the major issue would be to intensify the joint battle against drugs while correcting the errors that had been made more than a half century before.

101. **Ms. Al-Zibdeh** (Jordan) warmly welcomed the Secretary-General's reports on agenda items 104 and 105 and expressed the view that there was a need to strengthen international cooperation to combat the various forms of organized crime. Jordan was a party to the principal conventions and protocols dealing with combating trafficking in persons, slavery, transnational organized crime, drugs, terrorism and corruption and was cooperating with neighbouring countries and the international community as a whole to combat those scourges.

102. With regard to trafficking in persons, Jordan had taken measures such as adopting a law prohibiting the practice and creating a National Committee against Trafficking in Persons, chaired by the Minister of Justice. In June 2009, the Jordanian Government had launched the second phase of the National Plan to Combat Forced Labour and Trafficking, drawn up in 2007 in cooperation with the International Labour Organization. A partnership project with the European Union had also been prepared in 2008.

103. In the field of combating drugs, Jordan was cooperating with various regional and international partners, particularly in the areas of prevention and care. In particular, it had hosted the 23rd Arab Conference of Heads of Anti-Drug Departments in July 2009 and was working together with the Dublin Group, the European Police College, and the European Union's MEDA programme. Jordan had also undertaken to strengthen and modernize the operational resources of its anti-drug services.

104. Jordan welcomed the efforts made by UNODC in the area of combating terrorism and had taken specific measures to protect itself against that form of crime. With regard to the fight against corruption and money-laundering, it had hosted the first session of the Conference of the State Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption and intended to attend the third session, which would be held in Doha in November 2009.

105. **Ms. Kidanu** (Ethiopia) stated that her country was a party to all the main United Nations anti-drug conventions. The implementation of those conventions at the national level should be based on an effective criminal justice system, respect for the rule of law and law enforcement mechanisms. In that connection, Ethiopia had adopted a national drug policy and taken legislative, regulatory, juridical and administrative measures to combat the production, distribution and consumption of narcotics. Since the fight against drugs involved several different sectors, it was important that the various bodies concerned should work in close cooperation. To that end, the Ethiopian Government had decided to establish an inter-ministerial coordinating committee responsible for implementing the National Drug Control Master Plan for the period 2009-2013, which had been drawn up with technical assistance from UNODC.

106. International cooperation also played an important role in the battle against drugs. Ethiopia welcomed the establishment of a UNODC project office in Ethiopia and the launching of a countrywide inter-agency project. The country was also grateful for the efforts of other bilateral, regional and international partners, hoping that they would continue to assist Ethiopia's efforts in that regard, in particular in the field of capacity-building for its law enforcement agencies.

107. **Mr. Sparber** (Liechtenstein), recalling that his delegation was traditionally one of the sponsors of the resolution on the strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular in the area of its technical cooperation capacity, pointed out that Liechtenstein provided financial and technical support to the work of UNODC in capacity-building in the area of legal assistance. It was also one of the main donors to the International Centre for Asset Recovery, a major partner with UNODC in the implementation of the Stolen Assets Recovery Initiative, through its work of training and providing developing countries with effective information technology tools. The implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption, the ratification of which by Liechtenstein should be completed in 2009, essentially required such forms of cooperation.

108. The Counter-Terrorism Committee had acknowledged in its preliminary implementation assessment statement in May 2009 the legislative measures taken by Liechtenstein with a view to combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism. Liechtenstein had also ratified and implemented all 16 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and protocols. As a State party to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the two Protocols thereto, it hoped that the tenth anniversary of the Convention, in 2010, would also be an occasion to intensify the operational work of the United Nations to combat transnational organized crime and urged all Member States that had not yet done so to become parties to the Convention and its Protocols.

109. **Mr. Tanin** (Afghanistan) said that the fight against drugs essentially required not only a reduction in production but also in demand. The improvement of the security situation was also an important factor, and in that connection, the training of the Afghan army and police force must be a priority. Afghanistan's counter-narcotics efforts had seen some remarkable successes in the past year, in particular in some specific aspects.

110. Firstly, poppy cultivation and opium production had dropped by 22 per cent and 10 per cent respectively, compared with 2008. In addition to destroying such crops, Afghanistan intended to concentrate its efforts on the promotion of other viable livelihoods, in the form of either replacement crops or economic development projects, and was pleased that the United States also considered that the right approach.

111. Secondly, the anti-drug infrastructures and coordination had been improved under the national drug control strategy. Furthermore, a conference had been organized for the provincial governors and an awareness-raising campaign had been launched. With regard to enforcement, a strengthened anti-drug law had been passed, and a special police force and court had been created. The Afghan Government intended, with the support of the international community, to continue along the same path and to focus its efforts on capacity-building, strengthening of institutions and improvement of the rule of law.

112. Thirdly, cooperation with neighbouring countries had greatly improved. In the framework of the triangular initiative bringing together Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, the anti-drug forces of the three countries had successfully carried out joint operations along their frontiers. Afghanistan had also cooperated closely with other countries of the region under the second UNODC initiative on regional communication, competence and training to combat trafficking, launched in May 2009. It was important to continue enhancing cooperation in accordance, in particular, with the Paris Pact, the Rainbow Strategy and Security Council resolution 1817 (2008), with particular focus on preventing the import of precursor chemicals into Afghanistan.

113. Fourthly, Afghanistan had improved its cooperation and coordination with the international community, in particular the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, with which it had undertaken a successful military operation in the first half of 2009. Bilateral cooperation had also been enhanced, both regionally and internationally. The Afghan Government was grateful to UNODC and to the International Narcotics Control Board for the assistance that they continued to give the country in all areas of the fight against drug trafficking. Those initiatives made it possible to give a regional and international dimension to the efforts under way in Afghanistan to combat drugs.

The meeting rose at 1:15 p.m.

United Nations A/C.3/64/SR.7

General Assembly
Sixty-fourth session

Official Records

Distr.: General
17 November 2009

Original: English

Third Committee

Summary record of the 7th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Thursday, 8 October 2009, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Penke ..... (Latvia)

Contents

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice* (*continued*)

Agenda item 105: International drug control* (*continued*)

* Items which the Committee has decided to consider together.

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09-54859 (E)

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The meeting was called to order at 3 p.m.

Agenda item 104: Crime prevention and criminal justice (*continued*) (A/64/99, A/64/121, A/64/123, A/64/130, A/64/277-S/2009/402 and A/C.3/64/L.2)

Agenda item 105: International drug control (*continued*) (A/64/120 and A/64/92-E/2009/98)

1. **Ms. Simovich** (Israel) said that trafficking in drugs, was a transnational crime, transcending politics, cultures and borders; thus the fight against that plague must be international. Disputes and differences must not be allowed to interfere with joint efforts by countries of a region to defend their borders against that threat to the fabric of each society.

2. Israel, a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and signatory of all three United Nations narcotics conventions, had been working towards strengthening its partnership with the European Union through the European Neighbourhood Policy. Several successful study visits had been organized between Israel and its neighbours from the Palestinian Authority, Jordan and Egypt. The regional office of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in Cairo had facilitated a number of joint projects in the region.

3. As an example of research in drug control, a method for detecting cannabis fields by remote sensing had been developed. To allow drug control legislation to address rapid changes in the field, Israel had initiated measures to speed up inclusion of new substances in its Dangerous Drugs Ordinance. It had also established a Pharmaceutical Crime Unit to fight counterfeiting of drugs and cosmetic products and to monitor the sale of psychoactive substances for illicit purposes.

4. Treatment and rehabilitation of drug abuse victims and their families also remained key goals. Treatment methods were tailored to the needs of specific groups, including new immigrants from Russia and Ethiopia, as well as Arabic-speaking addicts. Under the Municipality Law, local communities must establish treatment services and offer education and prevention activities. Special emphasis was also placed on alcohol consumption.

5. Terrorism was another threat the world was facing. Terrorists and drug traffickers often used the same methods and in many cases, profits from drug trafficking were used to finance terrorist activities. The fight against both types of traffickers in death should therefore be similar: firm, sophisticated and based on strong international cooperation. Just as no addict could overcome addiction without help, no country could manage the fight against drugs without the support of other concerned countries.

6. **Mr. Perez Alván** (Peru) said that despite the reported drop in worldwide production of heroin and cocaine, efforts to combat illicit drugs should be continued and intensified, especially in the light of the worsening global problem with amphetamine-type stimulants. Drug trafficking was unavoidably associated with violence and organized crime, and in several countries, with terrorist activities. It was a major cause of insecurity, through such related activities as money-laundering, arms trafficking, human trafficking and corruption. Further, the illicit production of coca was among major factors in the devastation of nature in Peru: in order to plant a hectare of coca, it was necessary to destroy three hectares of rainforest.

7. Drug trafficking should be fought on several fronts, with interdiction and eradication of illicit crops in tandem with preventive measures and implementation of alternative development programmes. Socio-economic measures to combat illicit drugs could include job creation, health-care services, access to education and respect for human rights.

8. Alternative development programmes were useful instruments in reducing the supply of illegal drugs while promoting the development of affected populations. The effectiveness of such programmes, however, depended on their ability to be self-sustaining in the long term, which required extensive planning and adequate financing. Developed countries, especially consumer countries, must place cooperation against drug trafficking high on their agendas for action, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility. Unfortunately, the actual funding provided to Peru to combat illicit drugs had declined steadily since 2002, from $140 million to a projected $57 million for 2010.

9. His delegation requested UNODC to elaborate a report with updated statistics on the overall resources allocated through international cooperation to counter the world drug problem, focusing on donor sources, projects in progress and the identification of key

programmes to intensify cooperation with the countries most affected by the illicit production of drugs.

10. **Mr. El Mkhantar** (Morocco) said that, in accordance with its international commitments, his Government was in the process of harmonizing its domestic legislation with the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The reforms introduced had resulted in the adoption of a new Criminal Code and Code of Criminal Procedure. As part of its national drug control strategy, Morocco had established a National Narcotic Drug Commission and a unit to coordinate efforts to combat illicit drugs. It was also making efforts to promote the development of its northern provinces, with the aim of reducing and eventually eradicating the cannabis crop in that region.

11. Morocco was committed to regional cooperation in drug control, which should be combined with appropriate international assistance. It had hosted the first ministerial meeting of African States on the Atlantic coast in August 2009, which had called for the establishment of a regional security mechanism that would also address illicit drug trafficking.

12. Morocco was also mobilizing all available resources to combat trafficking in migrants. Its national strategy centred on operational, legislative, institutional, socio-economic development and awareness-raising components. As a result of that strategy there had been a significant drop in clandestine migratory flows and trafficking networks had been forced to find other routes. In 2007, a more ambitious national strategy on trafficking in persons had been established with a broader vision that encompassed all facets of trafficking. Morocco attached particular importance to the Additional Protocol to the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and commended the UNODC programme in support of the efforts of North African countries to combat illicit trafficking in migrants.

13. Concerning efforts to combat terrorist organizations, his Government saw security as the main condition for economic and social development. Accordingly, it had developed a 2008-2012 plan to consolidate its security sector both from a material and human resources standpoint.

14. However, while national strategies and implementation were essential to reduce the risk of transnational crime, such plans could not be effective without international support and appropriate technical assistance.

15. **Mr. Chiriboga** (Ecuador) said that Ecuador condemned drug trafficking in all its forms and manifestations as an attack on human life and dignity. His Government placed priority on all actions to combat drug trafficking and organized crime, with strict observance of human rights and the norms of international law. Ecuador had made efforts to harmonize its domestic law with the international instruments to which it was party. UNODC had singled out its project to monitor shipping containers as one of the three most successful projects globally in 2008; that success was due to the strong commitment by the Government and law enforcement to fight illicit drug trafficking. Further, cultivation of coca in Ecuador was not extensive for several reasons, including the criminal penalties imposed, ongoing monitoring of high-risk areas by the armed forces and police and alternative development programmes undertaken as a preventive measure.

16. In closing, he called on the international community to uphold the principle of shared responsibility for drug control and for recognition of the commitment of many nations to combat that type of illicit activity.

17. **Ms. Kavun** (Ukraine) said that her Government supported enhanced international cooperation to combat organized crime, corruption and trafficking. Because those problems were closely related to levels of social and economic development, measures to address them should be taken into account in sustainable development policy.

18. Ukraine welcomed the priority given to the universal ratification of the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and to activities under the Convention against Corruption, which were of particular importance to her Government. Efforts to improve the financial management and governance of UNODC were also welcome.

19. Ukraine reiterated its strong support for the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking. While taking into account existing regional and other initiatives, a comprehensive and concerted international response was needed.

20. Problems related to illicit drugs remained a major concern to her country. The links between the spread of

HIV/AIDS and illicit drug use must be underlined, and, in that context, programmes for drug demand reduction, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation played a crucial role. It was important to streamline the global response to AIDS, in particular within the multilateral system. Close cooperation was needed among all agencies of the United Nations system concerned with health-related drug policy, while respecting each organization's role and mandate. More effective collaboration was also needed between countries of origin, transit and destination, taking into account such new forms of crime as cybercrime.

21. Lastly, she drew attention to the problem of maritime piracy, which was no longer a local problem. Ukraine strongly supported the elaboration of uniform, clear rules to fight pirates and protect sailors from that danger, which threatened all countries.

22. **Mr. Puri** (India) said that terrorism undermined peace, democracy and freedom, endangering the international community and humanity as a whole. India, which had suffered terrorist attacks for decades, including the recent Mumbai attack of November 2008 and an attack on its embassy in Afghanistan earlier that day, believed that while it was important for the international community to condemn such attacks unequivocally, it was also critical to strengthen the legal framework in the fight against terrorism. It was time to continue and conclude the negotiations on a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. His delegation also expressed concern at the nexus between drug mafias, arms dealers and money-laundering for the financing of terrorism, and supported efforts by UNODC to assist countries in putting into place appropriate counter-terrorism legislation.

23. The international community must build on the reported reduction in the cultivation of drug crops and the global decline in demand for illicit drugs. Long-term national and international political and financial commitment to alternative development programmes and supply reduction strategies were the cornerstone of efforts in that area. India also supported the strengthening of South-South cooperation through sharing of best practices, lessons learned and technical assistance.

24. As one of the world's largest producers of licit opium, India pursued balanced drug control measures to ensure that supply and demand for genuine medical and scientific purposes was maintained without proliferation of manufacturing. It welcomed the contribution of the International Narcotics Control Board in monitoring that balance.

25. India had enacted strong domestic legislation to combat money-laundering and had entered into bilateral agreements with several countries to develop joint programmes on money-laundering, counter-terrorism and organized crime. Such problems of a transnational nature and global magnitude could only be dealt with at the regional and international level, and India remained committed to working towards a world free of those scourges.

26. **Ms. Ivanovic** (Republic of Serbia) said that her Government had adopted national strategies against organized crime, illicit drugs and illegal migrations during 2009. Given the cross-border nature of many forms of organized crime, efforts to combat them could not succeed without good regional and international cooperation. Accordingly, Serbia had developed various forms of cooperation with UNODC, regional organizations, Europol and INTERPOL. It had recently signed a Cooperation Protocol with the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo for the exchange of information on trafficking in drugs, weapons and persons and on organized crime and terrorism.

27. The joint programme on human trafficking, conducted by UNODC, UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), represented the country's first integrated and comprehensive framework for combating human trafficking, based on prevention, prosecution and protection. An investigation into serious allegations of trafficking in persons for the purpose of harvesting human organs in Kosovo province and northern Albania was also being conducted in conjunction with the Council of Europe. The joint efforts by the United Nations and the Council of Europe to address the issue of trafficking in human organs were to be commended.

28. **Mr. Gonsalves** (Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) said that the importance of the issues of crime prevention and criminal justice and international drug control could not be overstated. Until very recently, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines had been an agriculture-based economy, relying primarily on banana exports to the United Kingdom. However, in the face of challenges from other banana interests and

the United States of America, its preferential access to that market was fast disappearing and it was producing less than half the amount of bananas grown only 10 years earlier.

29. The resulting unemployment, increased rural poverty and sudden social dislocation had presented a number of difficult challenges. One of those was an increase in marijuana cultivation in the interior of the country, where producers destroyed old-growth rain forest to cultivate hundreds of acres of cannabis. The country had become one of the Caribbean's major marijuana producers. Drug production had morphed into an elaborate criminal enterprise, orchestrated by heavily armed drug barons and gangs. The drug trade was the most pressing and immediate threat to the security of the Caribbean, with the southern Caribbean increasingly utilized as a trans-shipment point between Latin American producers and North American consumers.

30. The 32 islands making up Saint Vincent and the Grenadines were patrolled by a mere handful of coast guard vessels, and its justice system was crowded with drug-related criminals. Further, heavily armed drug gangs often outnumbered law enforcement, undermining the State's legitimate monopoly on coercive force and threatening its very foundation. The drug trade was a very real threat to the region's growth and development.

31. His delegation therefore wished to register its alarm and dismay at the closure of the UNODC Caribbean Field Office, which it considered nothing less than an abandonment of the region. In its annual report, UNODC had recognized the high rate of crime and violence related to drug trafficking in the region, making it all the more baffling that it had closed its only field office.

32. While welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation against the world drug problem (A/64/120), his delegation rejected the recommendation to support the reconfiguration of the network of field offices if that was a euphemism for closure of the Caribbean office. While it was fully aware of the budgetary constraints, it was inconceivable that the abandonment of the Caribbean could form part of the solution to the current financial difficulties or the wider battle against the world drug problem. The Caribbean deserved and demanded a meaningful, measurable and tangible engagement in the region, for which a physical presence was necessary.

33. **Mr. Giade** (Nigeria) said that drug trafficking was one of the most worrying aspects of organized crime. West Africa was fast becoming a transit point for the illicit drug trade, with a negative impact on national health, security and development. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) had adopted the West African Action Plan on Drugs in December 2008, which had received support from the Security Council, the European Union and other United Nations agencies.

34. In Nigeria, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency had been given the mandate to combat criminal activity associated with illicit drugs. It took a dual approach to control of both supply and demand. Supply control dealt with investigation, arrest and prosecution of drug traffickers and measures to remove drugs from circulation, through destruction of illicit crops and seized drugs. Demand control, on the other hand, dealt with drug eradication through enlightenment programmes aimed at making the public understand the consequences of illegal drug use and trade and the importance of cooperating with the Agency in combating trafficking.

35. The Agency had made remarkable progress in the past year through stepped-up surveillance of borders, seaports and airports to close off channels for narcotics smuggling and in prosecution of drug offenders. Substantial effort had been made to uncover their foreign collaborators. Although it still faced many challenges, it remained committed to the goal of ridding the country and the West African subregion of the menace of drug trafficking. The Government was also committed to strengthening ties with its development partners and the international community and would work closely with regional organizations. It had also taken steps to strengthen cooperation in that area with the United Kingdom, South Africa and China.

36. Lastly, Nigeria had strongly supported the adoption of General Assembly resolution 63/196, entitled "United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders", and urged the General Assembly to make more resources available to the Institute from the regular budget to enable it to deliver on its mandate.

37. **Mr. Al-Mazrouei** (United Arab Emirates) said that his Government was doing its part to address the inter-related phenomena of transnational organized crime, particularly human trafficking, money-laundering and drug trafficking, through national strategies, bilateral partnerships and international cooperation, as demonstrated by its ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its optional protocol against trafficking in persons. It had also contributed $15 million to the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.

38. At the national level, a comprehensive strategy to counter-trafficking had been devised around the four pillars of criminalization, law enforcement, victim support and international cooperation. Moreover, his Government had established the National Committee to Combat Human Trafficking, whose tasks included developing relevant legislation, extending assistance and protection to victims and raising awareness of the issue. Bilateral agreements on human trafficking had also been concluded with labour-exporting countries.

39. In 2000, his Government had established the National Committee for Anti-Money Laundering, and the system put in place to regulate hawala transfers had enabled the State to curb money-laundering operations and terrorism financing activities significantly.

40. With regard to anti-drug efforts, the United Arab Emirates had acceded to the United Nations Convention Against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances, as well as to all other relevant international instruments. His Government had also signed memorandums of understanding with 21 countries and was a member of regional organizations established to combat financial crimes such as the Middle East and North Africa Financial Action Task Force (MENAFATF).

41. Given its proximity to the chief drug-producing countries, the United Arab Emirates was considered a transit country, and the national authorities imposed stringent penalties on those found guilty of involvement in such operations. At the domestic level, a national plan on drug demand reduction had led to fewer drug-related deaths and passage of laws stipulating the establishment of treatment centres and conversion of prisons to penal and rehabilitation institutions.

42. **Ms. Sahussarungsi** (Thailand) said that her Government was firmly committed to promoting and protecting human rights as well as ensuring justice for all, including those within the correctional system. While poverty could not be a pretext for impunity before the law, her Government recognized that policies must address all aspects of crime, including its root causes. Therefore, the aim of Government policy was not to punish criminals as a form of social vengeance but to mitigate social factors like poverty, despair and social exclusion that led to criminality. One government initiative sought to improve the situation of women and their children in prison by providing vital services such as health care, education and childcare and working to reduce violence against women within prison settings. It was hoped that women prisoners would become productive members of society when released from prison as a result of the initiative.

43. The 1955 United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners could no longer accommodate the specific needs of women in a rapidly changing world, and her delegation planned to draft a supplementary set of rules on the treatment of women prisoners and non-custodial measures for women offenders, which she hoped would be adopted by consensus.

44. As poverty was also among the root causes of drug-related crime and violence, numerous initiatives addressed the drug problem by promoting alternative development projects in Thailand and throughout the region. The United Nations could play an important role in convincing developed countries to open their markets to developing countries' alternative development products, which were aimed at fostering socio-economic self-reliance in poor and vulnerable communities. Thailand also stood ready to cooperate with the Asian Development Bank in rendering financial and technical assistance to countries interested in alternative development. At the regional level, her country was committed to working towards making the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region drug-free by 2015.

45. Thailand was of the view that drug addicts were victims, not criminals, and as such, they must receive adequate health care and support. The Government's universal health-care policy and its preventive campaign to raise social awareness on drug use reflected that view.

46. **Mr. Nazarian** (Armenia) said that as a country located in proximity to trafficking routes, Armenia was working to strengthen its capacities to combat drug trafficking. A signatory to the three main international conventions on drug control, his Government had also ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and had incorporated the provisions of those conventions into its national legislation. Furthermore, a national programme on combating drug addiction and trafficking was being elaborated.

47. In recent years, State anti-drug policy had shifted from a severe punitive approach to one informed by more liberal and balanced principles, as shown by its support for ongoing rehabilitation and treatment for drug addicts, for example.

48. Recognizing the need for enhanced international cooperation in combating the world drug problem, his Government had been cooperating closely with its partners, such as the United States Government, on building its technical capacities. Another example of successful cooperation was the South Caucasus Anti-Drug Programme. Funded by the European Union and the United Nations Development Programme, it had encouraged the Governments of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia to adopt European Union standards in five key areas, namely, legal assistance, drug epidemiology, prevention of drug use, treatment for drug addicts and reinforcement of regional law enforcement cooperation. Two new laws concerning decriminalization of certain categories of offences had been drafted as a result of the Programme's support of Government efforts in the area of drug control. Given the effectiveness of the Programme, he expressed the hope that the European Union, UNDP and other partners would continue to support it.

49. **Mr. Al-Shami** (Yemen) said that Yemen had acceded to a number of relevant conventions, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and had also been among the first countries to sign the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2003. In addition, his Government had established the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, the body currently responsible for coordinating national anti-corruption strategies.

50. Yemen had acceded to a number of international anti-drug conventions, and its National Directorate for Drug Control was responsible for coordinating regional and international cooperation efforts on the issue. Furthermore, his Government had been successful in hindering attempts by smugglers to use Yemen as a crossing point for illegal drugs en route to neighbouring countries.

51. Human trafficking constituted a flagrant violation of human rights and dignity, and Yemen had therefore ratified a number of relevant international conventions and protocols. Human trafficking had also been defined as a criminal offence punishable under Yemeni law. Other Government efforts to combat human trafficking included awareness-raising campaigns and regional cooperation. It was necessary to tackle its root causes, which included hunger, unemployment and warfare, and to provide protection to victims and facilitate their reintegration into society.

52. **Ms. Sulimani** (Sierra Leone) said that, in the post-conflict period, Sierra Leone was still grappling with economic and social tensions exacerbated by the rise in cross-border criminal activities. Transnational organized crime in West Africa was likely to result in a higher incidence of corruption of law enforcement agents, undermining the rule of law.

53. While its resources for crime prevention were limited, Sierra Leone had demonstrated its commitment to global efforts to combat transnational organized crime, enacting legislation on money-laundering, drug abuse and human trafficking and establishing a national commission on drug control. In addition, a community arms collection programme had been launched in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, with the aim of preventing crimes that normally occurred in post-conflict situations. As part of its peace consolidation efforts, the Government, in collaboration with the British Department for International Development, the Commonwealth and bilateral partners, had undertaken security and judicial sector reform.

54. Sierra Leone had ratified the new ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and it was working to implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms.

55. **Mr. Adam** (Maldives) said that having a tourism-driven economy and a high degree of internal migration made his country highly vulnerable to the drug trade. Although the Maldives did not produce,

cultivate or manufacture drugs, it had been used as a point for the illegal shipment of precursor chemicals and large quantities of drugs destined for other countries. Moreover, the number of drug abuse cases had been rising steadily since 1993, when the first case had been detected.

56. To address those issues, the Maldives had launched a drug control master plan and a national campaign that emphasized the importance of providing community support for addicts. The global fight against illicit narcotics should remain focused on protecting human security through enhanced public health. Highlighting the importance of treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration into society of drug abusers, rather than treating them as criminals, was a way to bring about such a shift.

57. As a developing State with extremely limited resources, the Maldives highly appreciated the successes of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime over the previous 60 years. Taking note of the Office's long-standing engagement with his Government, he reiterated the significance of pooling better resources and building the capacity of small developing States in order to ensure that the fight against drugs was effective.

58. **Mr. Migliore** (Holy See), noting with serious concern the rise in production and consumption of illicit drugs in areas that had previously had low rates of drug abuse, said that the overall health of the individual must be at the centre of drug-control efforts. However, addressing the health needs of individuals would prove insufficient without also addressing the various factors that led to the production and consumption of illicit drugs. For instance, developing countries afflicted by poverty were particularly vulnerable to the devastating trickle-down effects of the drug trade, as they served as easy trafficking points or inexpensive cultivators of source crops. Development projects that provided farming families with real alternatives to the coca and poppy crops must therefore continue to be supported at the national, regional and international levels, and the causal relationship between increasing development and eradication of the drug trade must be emphasized.

59. As the causes and consequences of dependence on psychotropic substances were related to family dynamics, prevention, treatment and rehabilitation efforts should focus on family relationships in all their dimensions, lest the impact of drug use destabilize the family unit and through it, the whole of society.

60. His delegation noted with concern the links between the illicit drug trade and human trafficking, small arms proliferation, organized crime and terrorism, links that demonstrated that substance abuse was not a victimless offence but rather one whose main victims were the poor and vulnerable.

61. **Mr. Kohona** (Sri Lanka), noting his country's struggle against terrorism over the previous three decades, said that it was impossible to discuss efforts to combat drug trafficking without addressing such interconnected crimes as international terrorism, money-laundering and human trafficking. The provision of logistical support to terrorist groups continued to pose a threat to maritime security. Sri Lanka had been a victim of unprecedented and dangerous forms of maritime terrorism, and the terrorist group that had been operating on its soil was currently transferring its expertise to international arms smugglers and drug traffickers, hence the urgent need for close international collaboration and intelligence-sharing to combat those crimes. Furthermore, a global consensus must be forged on a comprehensive normative framework for international cooperation and solidarity in combating terrorism within the parameters of international law.

62. It was no longer sufficient to combat trafficking in traditional drugs, as technological advancement had facilitated the development and proliferation of synthetic drugs that were more toxic, easier to transport and smuggle and less costly to manufacture.

63. Poverty reduction and programmes to generate alternative livelihoods would help to address the increase in global crime levels, which had been exacerbated by the current global economic slowdown and the food crisis. The implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime should remain the legal and institutional cornerstone of global efforts against trafficking and human smuggling.

64. **Mr. Monterrey Suay** (El Salvador) said that his delegation agreed that a decisive factor in combating drug trafficking was an effective criminal justice system, which included the strengthening of the rule of law and judicial cooperation among States. His country, like others in Central America, was affected by the relationship among drugs, violence and

transnational organized crime. El Salvador took an integrated approach to the problem, implementing education and prevention programmes while strengthening the capacity of law enforcement. It had shown leadership in the region by becoming party to the international agreements that sought to reduce demand and supply of illicit drugs and had signed bilateral cooperation agreements with 12 countries of Latin America. In addition, the President of El Salvador had joined with the Presidents of the countries of Central America and Mexico in adopting a security strategy for the region.

65. Drug abuse had serious consequences for the health and development of individuals and communities, which extended to related criminal activity. He particularly wished to draw attention to the problem of drug gangs, which had taken on a dimension of organized crime that threatened the security of its citizens. The Government had taken an approach to gangs that included prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration into society, requiring collective action and international cooperation. His delegation therefore called for strengthened multilateral, regional and bilateral cooperation as an essential tool in combating drug trafficking.

66. **Mr. Koh** Sang-wook (Republic of Korea) said that strengthened international cooperation and cooperation with civil society were two indispensable elements of a new approach to drug-related transnational crime. One negative side effect of improved transportation networks and expansion of the Internet was its misuse as a channel to facilitate the cross-border movement of illegal drugs. Enhanced information-sharing on drug control efforts among countries' law enforcement agencies must play a central role in cooperation. His Government was participating in real-time sharing of intelligence on illicit drugs with the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Drug Abuse Information Network for Asia and the Pacific. It had also developed an electronic certificate system in 2007 that allowed the authorities instantly to validate drug import and export certificates over the Internet. Expansion of that system would help to control the movement of drugs worldwide. Technical assistance from INCB and UNODC had been essential, and his Government was also sharing investigation techniques and tools within its region. The Korean Institute of Criminology had developed a Virtual Forum against Cyber Crime to provide practical support to law enforcement and other Government agencies.

67. The need for a stronger partnership with civil society was illustrated by the recent focus on the human rights of drug addicts, victims of drug-related crime and even drug offenders. States had developed drug control policies emphasizing treatment, protection and rehabilitation. Globally, there was a movement in criminal justice from retributive justice to restorative justice, and States had devoted more effort to developing alternatives to imprisonment, such as vocational programmes. The focus was less on how to punish drug offenders than on how to reintegrate them into society. Designing appropriate treatment and rehabilitation programmes to meet the needs of individuals could not be accomplished by the Government or international organizations alone, but required the participation of civil society.

68. **Mr. Abdul Momen** (Bangladesh) said that despite having limited resources, his Government was committed to addressing the drug problem, as demonstrated by its accession to the three major anti-drug conventions, efforts by law enforcement agencies to apprehend drug traffickers and bring them to justice and the imposition of strict penalties for drug offenders.

69. With regard to crime prevention, reform of the criminal justice system and ensuring that the poor had affordable access to it were crucial policy priorities for his Government. The separation of the judiciary and executive branches of Government was one of the important reforms that had been introduced, and others were under way. Given the difficulty of securing the country's long, porous borders, cooperation with neighbouring countries to curb cross-border crime was also essential.

70. Turning to corruption, he noted the existence of a functioning anti-corruption commission. Relevant international agencies and development partners were supporting Government efforts to combat money-laundering. Nevertheless, asset recovery remained a major challenge for Bangladesh, one that would require the particular support of States parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

71. Bangladesh remained resolute in its campaign against international terrorism. In addition to having ratified all United Nations anti-terrorism conventions, it had enacted domestic anti-terrorism legislation and

continued to fulfil its reporting obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions. It would also be hosting a regional workshop for police officers and prosecutors in South Asia on effectively countering terrorism in November 2009.

72. His Government was acting to prosecute perpetrators of human trafficking and assist and protect victims and potential targets, in addition to raising public awareness of the issue, a task also carried out commendably by NGOs. Bangladesh had also taken the lead in calling for concerted action against human trafficking at the regional level at the recent summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation.

73. **Mr. Dall'oglio** (International Organization for Migration (IOM)) said that despite the increasing international attention being given to human trafficking as a human rights issue, there remained over 12 million victims of forced labour, bonded labour and commercial sexual servitude at any given time. The International Organization for Migration (IOM) had intensified its efforts in the previous two years, continuing to support States and civil society in the areas of prevention, prosecution and protection. The dissemination of the IOM Handbook on Direct Assistance for Victims of Trafficking in several languages was another major achievement.

74. The crime of human smuggling also merited international attention, as the massive so-called "mixed flows" of economic migrants, victims of trafficking and refugees embarking daily on the risky path of irregular migration offered by smugglers were in need of basic international legal protection and assistance. IOM had been working closely with partners on addressing the gaps in those areas. Trafficking and smuggling could better be contrasted through more transparent and regular migration channels that would bring informal and unregulated work activities under a regulated labour regime.

75. Given that Africa was one of the continents of origin for many victims of trafficking and smuggling, IOM, with the support of the Government of Tanzania, had set up the African Capacity Building Centre in the northern Tanzanian town of Moshi in order to assist African States in scaling up their migration management capacities.

76. **Mr. Masambasita** (United Nations African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders) said that nearly a fourth of the countries in the African region had already made their financial contributions to the Institute for the 2008-2009 biennium, a modest gain that indicated that member States were responding to the call issued in General Assembly resolution 63/196 to meet their financial obligations to the Institute.

77. While there had been some improvement in the collection of financial contributions by member States, the amount was still insufficient to cover the deficit created by the discrepancy between the United Nations biennial subsidy for professionals and their actual salary. Seized of the matter, the Administrative Council called upon the Secretary-General to make additional regular budget funds available to the Institute. Lastly, noting the need to promote the Institute's capacity to provide greater technical assistance to member States in the areas of crime prevention and criminal justice, he relayed to the Third and Fifth Committees its request for additional financial support, as cited in paragraph 56 of the Secretary-General's report.

The meeting rose at 5.50 p.m.